

# ROBERT MOSES COLLECTION

A finding aid for the records of the Robert Moses Collection

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## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

### **Title:**

Robert Moses Collection

### **Repository:**

Long Island State Parks Regional Archives  
Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

### **ID Number:**

### **Abstract/Summary:**

The Robert Moses Collection consists of records created and maintained by the Long Island State Park Commission (LISPC), Jones Beach State Parkway Authority (JBSPA), and Bethpage Park Authority (BPA) during the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. While the records in their entirety span the existence of these organizations from inception to dissolution, the bulk of files date primarily to the decades when the Commission and Authorities were under the direction of Robert Moses. As the LISPC, JBSPA, and BPA shared headquarters and were intricately intertwined, files within this collection often contain a mixture of records created by these entities. This collection contains a wealth of published and unpublished material, including minutes of meetings, correspondence, memoranda, transcripts of public speeches, legal documents, court transcripts, financial ledgers, architectural drawings and blueprints, promotional materials, film reels, and photographs.

### **Creator:**

Bethpage Corporation  
Bethpage Park Authority

Jones Beach State Parkway Authority  
Long Island State Park Commission  
Moses, Robert, 1888-1981  
New York (State). State Council of Parks

**Inclusive Dates:**

1650-2013

**Bulk Dates:**

1924-1977

**Extent:**

586.5 cubic feet; 471 boxes, 40 volumes, 441 ledgers, and 6 flat files

**Language:**

Collection material is in English.

**Sponsor:**

Funding for the Robert Moses Collection Project was provided through a grant awarded by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

The history of the Long Island region of the New York State park system is extensive and includes a number of name and organizational structural changes over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Long Island State Park Commission**

The first State Park Commission on Long Island was created under Chapter 260 of the Laws of 1902. A number of public hearings were held in 1903 and certain purchases of park lands were recommended. Since no funds were forthcoming, the Commission dissolved in 1904. In 1908, the Fire Island State Park Commission was appointed and functioned until 1923.

Division of the State into ten park regions was accomplished while Alfred E. Smith was Governor. The Long Island State Park Commission (LISPC), representing the Long Island Park Region of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, was established in 1924 and consisted of three members: Robert Moses, President; Townsend Scudder, and Clifford Jackson. Thomas McWhinney replaced Townsend Scudder in 1924 and was succeeded by Herbert Bayard Swope in 1933. When Commissioner Jackson died in 1955, his place was taken by Angier Biddle Duke. Lansdell K. Christie, Landon K. Thorne, and John M. Schiff also served terms on the three-man board. Robert Moses remained as president for thirty-seven years, ending in 1963.

In 1963, membership increased to five with the addition of Harold J. Pryor and Perry B. Duryea, Jr., the latter of whom was named Commission president following the resignation of Moses. M. Frederick Smith, A. Holly Patterson, and Robert Winthrop also served on the five-man board. In 1965, the Commission expanded to seven members with the addition of Henry L. Diamond and Cecil F. Hall. When Hall died in 1969, he was replaced by Ernest G. Wruck. In 1969, Perry B. Duryea, Jr., resigned the presidency and Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller appointed A. Holly Patterson, as President.

The Long Island State Park Commissioners also served on the board of the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, which was established in 1933 and built, maintained, and operated the causeways to Jones Beach, in addition to some park facilities (including Jones Beach Theater) and the Southern State Parkway in Nassau County. The Commission members likewise composed the board of the Bethpage Park Authority which built, maintained, and operated Bethpage State Park and its golf courses, polo field, and picnic area.

When the Long Island State Park Commission was formed in 1924, total state park acreage on Long Island consisted of a parcel of less than 200 acres on Fire Island. By 1972, fifteen of twenty-one state parks, reservations, and arboretums existent in the Long Island Region at that time had been developed and the Commission held over 35,500 acres of land and land under water.

When state parks were established on Long Island, state parkways to connect them with the area's main arteries were also built. By the early 1970s, there were approximately 200 miles of completed parkways and park service drives under the Long Island State Park Commission's jurisdiction. These roadways stretched from the New York City line to Sunken Meadow State Park on Long Island's North Shore and to Heckscher State Park on the South Shore. They also included the four causeways to Jones Beach, Captree, and Robert Moses State Parks on the outer barrier beaches fronting the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1970, the State Council of Parks was placed under the jurisdiction of the Executive Department of New York State Office of Parks and Recreation, a newly created independent state agency with headquarters in Albany. Legislative changes made with the 1972 Parks and Recreation Law (Chapter 660) consolidated the State park system and primary management of State parks was transferred to the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. With this change, the regional park commissions relinquished control over park planning and operations, and the State Council of Parks, which had guided the creation and development of the park program for nearly a half-century, ceded its authority to the central administrative office.

The Long Island State Park Commission retained an advisory role concerning local matters until 1977, when control of the State's parks and parkways was divided between the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). In 1981, the Office of Parks and Recreation was renamed the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP) in recognition of its additional role as the state historic preservation office.

#### **Sources**

Blakelock, Chester R. *History of the Long Island State Parks*. New York: Long Island Forum, 1949.

LaFrank, Kathleen. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Jones Beach State Park, Causeway, and Parkway System*. New York: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 2005.

*Long Island State Parks and Parkways, 1972*, Administrative Brochures Box 1, Folder 47, *Robert Moses Collection*, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

## **Jones Beach State Parkway Authority**

Until the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the outer barrier islands lying in the Atlantic Ocean off the South Shore of Long Island were little more than isolated sand-reefs. Separated from the mainland by the Great South Bay, the land belonged to the towns it passed through: Hempstead and Oyster Bay in Nassau County and the Town of Babylon in Suffolk County. Since this outer barrier beach land was difficult to access even by boat, it was sparsely populated and rarely used.

When the Long Island State Park Commission was formed in 1924, the lack of accessibility of publicly-owned ocean beaches for residents of Long Island and New York City was immediately recognized. Development of the Jones Beach area into a State park for public recreational use soon became one of the Commission's primary objectives. In 1925, under the direction of Commission President Robert Moses, the Long Island State Park

Commission began negotiations for the acquisition of the outer barrier beach islands, plus right-of-way across the bay for an access roadway.

In 1926, the Town of Hempstead dedicated portions of the barrier beaches, along with legal right for a causeway, to the State. Development of Jones Beach State Park began later that year. In 1927, the Towns of Oyster Bay and Babylon transferred additional lands to the State and over the next two years, the Wantagh Causeway (Wantagh State Parkway), the park's East Bathhouse, and parking fields were built. Jones Beach State Park officially opened to the public on August 4, 1929.

The park proved so popular that the Wantagh Causeway was soon overcrowded with traffic. In 1931, the Town of Hempstead conveyed Short Beach (located between the park and Jones Inlet) to the state, along with an easement for a second causeway that would provide an additional access route to the park from the village of Freeport. In 1932, plans for construction of the new causeway (Meadowbrook Parkway) were stalled due to lack of funds caused by the Depression and building the second causeway fell outside the scope of work relief programs. To surmount this funding obstacle, President Robert Moses proposed the formation of the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority (JBSPA)—the first of a number of similar agencies he would establish throughout his career in order to gain more control and autonomy over his public works projects.

The Jones Beach State Parkway Authority was created by the New York State Legislature in 1933. The Authority and the Long Island State Park Commission were composed of the same individuals and shared the Commission's headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park in the Town of Babylon. The Authority shared the powers of the Commission to acquire and dispose of real estate, obtain property through eminent domain, and maintain a police force. However, it possessed additional powers to issue bonds, impose tolls, let contracts without competitive bidding, and delegate all of its power to one member.

In 1933, the Authority was granted a loan of \$5,050,000 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to finance construction of the Meadowbrook Causeway, the Loop Parkway to Long Beach, reconstruction work on the Wantagh Causeway, and for the enlargement of parking fields at Jones Beach State Park. The Meadowbrook and Loop Parkways opened to traffic in October, 1934. Beginning in January of the following year, tolls were charged to use the causeways in order to pay debt amortization and interest, in addition to provide for parkway maintenance.

Following a period of neglect and disuse experienced by public facilities during World War II, improvements and reconstruction of many Jones Beach State Parkway Authority

facilities were carried out through financial support provided by the Post-War Reconstruction Fund. In the years following the war, the JBSPA completed numerous projects to repair and expand Jones Beach State Park, including the addition of parking areas, buildings and comfort stations, boardwalks, and a modern sewage treatment plant. The Captree (Robert Moses) Causeway was added in the early 1950s to provide an additional access route and in 1952 a newly-remodeled Jones Beach Marine Stadium opened to the public.

While Robert Moses resigned from his positions as President of the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority in 1963, the Authority continued to operate until it was officially dissolved on June 30, 1978—shortly after control of the State’s parks and parkways was transferred and divided between the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).

### **Sources**

*50 Years of Service: The Jones Beach Story*, 1979, Administrative Brochures Box 1, Folder 44, *Robert Moses Collection*, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Blakelock, Chester R. “History of Jones Beach State Park.” New York: Long Island Forum, 1957.

Caro, Robert. *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*. New York: Vintage Books, 1975.

“Data on the History, Purposes and Accomplishments of the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority,” 1953, Administrative Reports, Box 5, Folder 10, *Robert Moses Collection*, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Justia Law. “2006 New York Code - Jones Beach State Parkway Authority,” January 28, 2021. [https://law.justia.com/codes/new-york/2006/public-authorities/pba0152\\_152.html](https://law.justia.com/codes/new-york/2006/public-authorities/pba0152_152.html).

LaFrank, Kathleen. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Jones Beach State Park, Causeway, and Parkway System*. New York: New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 2005.

“The Acquisition and Development of Jones Beach State Park and its Parkway System,” 1932, Administrative Subject Files, Box 5, Folder 11, *Robert Moses Collection*, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

## **Bethpage Park Authority**

The estate that eventually became Bethpage State Park originally belonged to the family of railroad executive Benjamin Franklin Yoakum. The Depression-era Long Island State Park Commission lacked funding for the acquisition of parkland, but saw an opportunity to create a public golf course on Yoakum’s land (located in what is now the hamlet of Old Bethpage) after he died in 1929. Although at the time the estate’s golf course was leased to the private Lenox Hills Country Club, in 1931 Commission members convinced the Town of Oyster Bay and Nassau County to secure option to purchase the property. The Commission was then able to lease the land from the owners for use as a public park.

The non-profit Bethpage Corporation was created “under the auspices of the Park Commission” shortly afterwards to operate a public golf course and clubhouse.

In 1933, New York State Governor Herbert H. Lehman called a special summer session of the State Legislature to consider the unemployment issue created by the Depression. During the session, LISPC President Robert Moses proposed creating a public benefit corporation with the power to issue bonds in order to provide the funding necessary to purchase and maintain Bethpage State Park. Governor Lehman and the New York State Legislature passed Chapter 801 establishing the Bethpage Park Authority (BPA) in August, 1933. The final \$1,000,000 cost of the property was then covered by \$900,000 in bonds issued to the owners of the land by the newly formed Authority, in addition to \$100,000 in cash obtained from the sale of Authority bonds to the New York State Comptroller.

Starting from the time it began leasing the property, the Long Island State Park Commission had been developing Bethpage State Park to include picnic areas, riding stables, bridle paths, and tennis courts. However, it struggled with the financial aspects of acquiring additional land and carrying out improvements. Although its application to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for funding was denied, the Commission had much more success with the Civil Works Administration. Under the direction of Moses, 1,800 men were eventually employed through CWA-funded work relief projects to further develop the park.

Between 1934 and 1936, three more golf courses, a new clubhouse, and a polo field were added. In 1942, an outdoor stadium was also built for playing recreational sports such as baseball and football. Moses remained President of the Bethpage Park Authority from 1933 until his resignation in 1963. The Authority was officially terminated in 1976 and in 1977 control of state parks and parkways was consolidated and transferred to the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).

### ***Sources***

*Bethpage Park Authority Meeting Minutes*, January 28, 1976, Administrative Meeting Minutes Box 1, Folder 24. *Robert Moses Collection*, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

*Bethpage State Park*, 1958, Administrative Brochures Box 1, Folder 7, *Robert Moses Collection*, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Blakelock, Chester R. *History of the Long Island State Parks*. New York: Long Island Forum, 1949.

Blakelock, Chester R. “The Story of Bethpage State Park.” New York: Long Island Forum, 1958.

*Castles in the Sand: The Design of Long Island State Parks (Jones Beach State Park Exhibit Script)*. New York: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, n.d.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Robert Moses**

Robert Moses (1888-1981) was born in New Haven, Connecticut on December 18, 1888. In 1897, his family relocated to Manhattan and from that point on Moses remained a lifelong resident of New York State. After receiving a B.A. from Yale University in 1909, he went on to earn a B.A. Jurisprudence in 1911, an M.A. in 1913 from Oxford University, and a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University in 1914.

Moses began his career in public service at the Bureau of Municipal Research in 1913, investigating the activities of various departments within the government of the City of New York. He became Chief of Staff of the New York State Reconstruction Commission in 1919 and Secretary of the New York State Association in 1922. As such, he worked with New York State Governor Alfred E. Smith to obtain amendments to the State Constitution and succeeded in effectively reorganizing the State government by consolidating 180 scattered departments into 18 compact State agencies. It was during this period that Robert Moses became one of the most recognized experts on New York State Constitutional Law.

As Secretary of the New York State Association and while serving as a member of the administration of Governor Alfred E. Smith, Moses conceived of and became actively engaged in developing a State park plan for New York. He is credited as being the driving force behind the 1924 legislation that established the New York State Council of Parks and created the first unified state park system in the United States. Under the new park system, the State was divided into ten park regions with regional park commissions. When the State park plan was approved in 1924, Moses was appointed President of the Long Island State Park Commission and also elected Chairman of the State Council of Parks.

Moses had been vacationing with his family on the South Shore of Long Island since 1922, exploring the area and formulating ideas for developing a public park system in the region. By 1925, a full description of his plan for Long Island was submitted to the State Council of Parks. Ambitious in scope, his Long Island park plan noted the area's proximity to the heavily populated New York metropolitan area and also the fact that Long Island possessed almost all of the state's salt water shore but lacked a through-route to access it.



He was determined to expand public recreation and bring urban New Yorkers to the vast expanse of oceanfront beaches on Long Island. Based on the belief that most 20<sup>th</sup> century patrons would travel to parks in their own automobiles, Moses created a park plan for the region that included building a number of parkways, in addition to parks, to connect populations at the west end of the island with a series of parks at graduated distances from Manhattan and its boroughs. The plan included two parallel parkways (Northern and Southern State Parkways) running east-west through the center of Long Island. Five north-south spur parkways and causeways branched out from the Northern and Southern State Parkways to provide access to waterfront parks on the Long Island Sound and Atlantic Ocean barrier beaches—especially to what would become his crowning achievement, Jones Beach State Park. The roadways would form a continuous recreational drive across Long Island, providing access to inland parks.

Due to his powerful position on the State Council of Parks, development of the Long Island State park and parkway system proceeded rapidly. By the conclusion of his tenure as Commission President, Robert Moses was ultimately responsible for the creation of the majority of State parks and parkways that presently exist in the Long Island region. As the “master builder” of 20<sup>th</sup> century New York, he was also the driving force behind the creation of countless public parks, playgrounds, public swimming pools, highways, bridges, hydroelectric dams, and cultural centers through New York City and New York State.

According to New York State’s Natural Heritage Trust, Robert Moses was responsible for more changes to the physical surroundings of New Yorkers than any other individual in the state’s history and through his numerous state, municipal, and regional offices he significantly transformed recreation, transportation, housing, electrical service, and even arrangements affecting business and culture. Moses served as President of the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority concurrently until his resignation in late December, 1962 (effective January, 1963). His extraordinary vision and public works projects largely transformed and shaped the Long Island region, its infrastructure, and its public spaces into what they are today.

Known for his tireless dedication to the development of public works during his long career in public service, Robert Moses received numerous appointments and served as a member of many commissions, often simultaneously. In addition to his positions with the Long Island State Park Commission (1924-1963) and State Council of Parks (1924-1963), other positions include: New York State Secretary of State (1927-1928), Moreland Commissioner (1929), Long Island Sanitary Commission (1930), Emergency Public Works Commission Chairman (1933-1934), Jones Beach State Parkway Authority

President (1933-1963), Bethpage Park Authority President (1933-1963), Commissioner of New York City Parks Department (1934-1960), Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority Member, Chairman, Consultant (1934-1981), Henry Hudson and Marine Parkway Bridge Authorities (1934-1938), Executive Officer of the New York City World's Fair Commission (1936-1940), New York City Parkway Authority (1938), Commissioner of New York City Planning Commission (1942-1960), Chairman of the Mayor's Slum Clearance Committee (1948-1960), New York State Power Authority Chairman (1952-1962), and President of the New York World's Fair (1960-1967). Moses also ran unsuccessfully for Governor of New York State in 1934.

**Sources:**

Moses, Robert. *Public Works : A Dangerous Trade*. New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., 1970.

Natural Heritage Trust. *Fifty Years: New York State Parks 1924-1974*. Albany, New York: Natural Heritage Trust, 1975.

*Short Biography of Robert Moses, 1937*, Box 3, Folder 12, Robert Moses Collection, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

LaFrank, Kathleen. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Jones Beach State Park, Causeway, and Parkway System*. New York: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 2005.

## **Moses Project Timeline**

Robert Moses was heavily involved in the creation of public works throughout the State of New York, in addition to the Long Island region. The below comparative timeline reveals the enormity of his accomplishments while serving as the main impetus behind the development of public recreational facilities and mass transportation projects in New York during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<Timeline>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The Robert Moses Collection is composed primarily of records created by the Long Island State Park Commission (LISPC) during the era when "master builder" Robert Moses served as President of the Commission. The records document daily administration of the Park Commission's business affairs and operations. In addition, the Robert Moses Collection contains records created by the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority (JBSPA) and the Bethpage Park Authority (BPA).

Although each Authority was originally created by Moses as an independent body, all shared a headquarters building at Belmont Lake State Park on Long Island (in the Town of Babylon in Suffolk County). The records of both Authorities became intricately intertwined with those of the Long Island State Park Commission over their decades-long histories. Also, the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority and Bethpage Park Authority, along with the Long Island State Park Commission, were subsumed in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century into what is now known as the Long Island Region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The records created by the Commission and Authorities were completely combined at an unknown point and many files within this collection contain a mixture of records created by more than one of these entities as a result.

While Moses' tenure over Long Island's state parks and parkways lasted from 1924 until 1963, the bulk of records within the Robert Moses Collection date from approximately 1924 to 1977. This is due to the fact that the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority subsequently existed for only a relatively short time after his resignation. This collection therefore contains records for the Park Commission and Authorities from their inception until their various dissolution dates in the late 1970s, in order to provide the most complete and accurate record of the history, activities, and finances of each.

The Robert Moses Collection has been arranged according to a functional original order based on the purpose of the records and their usage during the daily operations of the organizations that generated them. In order to preserve evidential value and existing relationships amongst the records, the collection has been divided into six series that reflect major operational areas or departments that existed within the Long Island State Park Commission: Administrative, Legal, Financial, Engineering, Photographic, and Audiovisual. Each series has been further broken down into numerous subseries based on park, parkway, subject, or form of the records. Subseries within each series are often ordered alphabetically for simplified searching. Files within subseries are generally arranged chronologically or alphabetically by case file, subject, geographic location, or creator and then chronologically by date.

## **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in six series:

**Series I:** The **Long Island State Park Commission Administrative Records** series consists of eleven subseries. Most of these records were accumulated during the normal course of business operations by the administrative offices of the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. While materials within these files date from approximately 1914 to 1994, the bulk of records span the years 1924-1977. Examples of subseries are Robert Moses Correspondence Files, Robert Moses Speeches and Articles Files, General Correspondence Files, Subject Files, Brochures, and Reports.

**Series II:** The **Long Island State Park Commission Legal Records** series is composed of thirty-five subseries, the majority of which are individual Case Files documenting land acquisition and appropriation by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority on behalf of New York State for specific park and parkway projects. The properties were primarily located throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island and the records consist mostly of a variety of types of legal paperwork—such as deeds, mortgages, title searches, contracts, agreements, related correspondence, memoranda, and property surveys. There are also files for various litigation proceedings related to property acquisition and appropriation. While the bulk of files date from 1924 to 1977, some also contain photostats of much earlier New York State land records.

**Series III:** The **Long Island State Park Commission Engineering Department Records** series is divided into ten subseries related to the civil engineering of public works projects undertaken by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. The bulk of these records date from 1924 to 1977 and cover a wide range of topics related to the design, construction, and maintenance of outdoor public recreational facilities and mass transportation infrastructure such as parks, parkways, and bridges throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island. This series is predominantly composed of Project Files for individual engineering projects that contain compilations of materials such as contracts, blueprints, surveys, design specifications, invoices, memoranda, and correspondence. There are also many blueprints, maps, and architectural drawings, in addition to right-of-way easements granted to the Long Island State Park Commission for park and parkway purposes.

**Series IV:** The **Long Island State Park Commission Financial Records** consist of fourteen subseries that provide evidence of the financial administration and activities of the Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority during the course of their various existences. A large portion of this series is composed of bookkeeping ledgers where daily accountings of income and expenses were

recorded. Also included are budgets, finance reports, service contracts, invoices, statements, bank records, cancelled checks, and information about major sources of project and operating funds.

**Series V: The Long Island State Park Commission Photographs** series is composed of photographs and photographic negatives of State parkways and or taken within State parks predominately in the Long Island region. The images depict subjects like recreational park activities, wildlife, sponsored programs, sporting events, damage due to natural disasters, and vandalism. There are both color and black and white images, and most date from between about 1933 to 1995. While common sizes of photographs in this series are 8x10" or 4x6", there are a number of oversized images as well.

**Series VI: The Long Island State Park Commission Audiovisual Materials** series is composed of multiple formats of recordings produced by the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority for promotional purposes. These 16 mm reels, in addition to VHS and Beta tapes, contain both color and black and white films of various State parks and parkways across Long Island and in New York City. The majority of movies document project locations in the midst of construction or special events and recreational activities. There are also films featuring the daughters and grandchildren of Robert Moses.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Access and Restrictions:**

The majority of the Robert Moses Collection is located at the Long Island Parks Regional Archives facility (located within Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay, New York) and is open to research by appointment. Financial and engineering map ledgers are housed at the Long Island State Parks Regional Headquarters building at Belmont Lake State Park in Babylon, New York. Please contact Long Island State Parks headquarters for access to these materials.

### **Language:**

Collection material is in English.

### **Copyright Status:**

Copyright remains with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

**Preferred Citation:**

Item, date, series and subseries, box, folder, *Robert Moses Collection*, Long Island State Parks Regional Archives, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

**Alternate Formats Available:**

Portions of the Robert Moses Collection have been digitized and can be accessed on the New York State Archives website under Digital Collections.

**Related Material:**

Historic photographic negatives, slides, and prints similar in nature and subject to materials found within the Robert Moses Collection are located at the Long Island Parks Regional Archives facility. Additional related materials, including photographs and architectural blueprints and drawings, are held at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Bureau of Historic Sites headquarters building located within Peebles Island State Park in Upstate New York.

**Provenance:**

The records contained within the Robert Moses Collection were originally created and maintained at Long Island State Parks Regional Headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park. In 2019, the majority of records were transferred to their current location at the Long Island State Parks Regional Archives facility within Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, New York, for archival processing and digitization.

**Processing History:**

The Robert Moses Collection was processed between 2019 and 2021 as part of the Robert Moses Collection Project, a joint venture between Long Island University's Palmer School of Library and Information Science, New York State Archives, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation provided generous funding for this project.

**ACCESS TERMS**

**Personal Name(s):**

Belmont, Eleanor Robson, 1879-1979

Belmont, Perry, 1850-1947  
Blakelock, Chester R.  
Dougherty, G. Frank  
Duryea, Perry B.  
Gardiner, Robert D. L.  
Gardiner, Sarah Diodati, 1862-1953  
Hammerstein, Oscar, II, 1895-1960  
Havemeyer, Horace, 1886-1956  
Heckscher, August, 1848-1941  
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952  
Kahn, Otto H., 1867-1934  
La Guardia, Fiorello H. (Fiorello Henry), 1882-1947  
Lehman, Herbert H. (Herbert Henry), 1878-1963  
Lombardo, Guy, 1902-1977  
Macy, William Kingsland, 1889-1961  
Manship, Paul, 1885-1966  
Moses, Robert, 1888-1981  
Noyes, Charles S.  
Pollak, Walter H. (Walter Heilprin), 1887-1940  
Rockefeller, John D., Jr. (John Davison), 1874-1960  
Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich), 1908-1979  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945  
Roosevelt, Franklin D., Jr. (Franklin Delano), 1914-1988  
Scudder, Townsend, 1865-1960  
Smith, Alfred Emanuel, 1873-1944  
Wagner, Robert F. (Robert Ferdinand), 1877-1953

**Corporate Name(s):**

American Jewish Congress  
Bethpage Park Authority.  
Congress of Racial Equality  
Connetquot River Club Inc.  
Deer Range Corporation  
Field Foundation (New York, N.Y.)  
Jones Beach Stadium (Long Island, N.Y.)  
Jones Beach State Parkway Authority.  
Long Island Lighting Company  
Long Island (N.Y.). Recreation and Parks, Department of

Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission  
Long Island State Park Commission  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
New York Aquarium  
New York (N.Y.). Department of Parks  
New York (State). Board of Commissioners of the Land Office  
New York (State). Court of Appeals  
New York (State). Court of Claims  
New York (State). Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Long Island State Park Region  
New York (State). State Council of Parks  
New York (State). Supreme Court  
New York (State). Supreme Court. Appellate Division  
New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation  
Sinclair Refining Company  
South Side Sportsmen's Club  
Standard Oil Company  
Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority  
Wyandanch Club

**Geographic Name(s):**

Battery Park (New York, N.Y.)  
Bayard Cutting Arboretum (Long Island, N.Y.)  
Babylon (N.Y. : Town)  
Belmont Lake State Park (state park)  
Bethpage (N.Y.)  
Bethpage State Park.  
Bethpage State Parkway  
Brookhaven (N.Y. : Town)  
Caleb Smith State Park Preserve  
Captree State Park (state park)  
Captree State Parkway (N.Y.)  
Carmans River (N.Y.)  
Caumsett State Park (N.Y.)  
Connetquot River State Park  
East Hampton (N.Y. : Town)  
Fire Island (N.Y. : Island)  
Fort Clinton (New York, N.Y.)



Gilgo State Park (state park)  
Heckscher State Park (state park)  
Heckscher State Parkway  
Hempstead (N.Y. : Town)  
Hempstead Lake State Park (state park)  
Hither Hills State Park  
Huntington (N.Y. : Town)  
Islip (N.Y. : Town)  
Jones Beach Stadium (Long Island, N.Y.)  
Jones Beach State Park (N.Y.)  
Long Island (N.Y.)  
Long Island Expressway (N.Y.)  
Loop Parkway  
Massapequa State Park  
Meadow Island (island)  
Meadowbrook State Parkway  
Mitchel Field (N.Y.)  
Montauk Point State Park (N.Y.)  
Nassau County (N.Y.)  
North Hempstead (N.Y. : Town)  
Northern State Parkway  
Oak Beach (N.Y.)  
Ocean Parkway (New York, N.Y.)  
Orient Point State Park and State Park Preserve  
Oyster Bay (N.Y. : Town)  
Planting Fields Arboretum  
Robert Moses State Park (N.Y.)  
Robert Moses Causeway  
Sagtikos Parkway  
Southampton (N.Y. : Town)  
Southern State Parkway (N.Y.)  
Suffolk County (N.Y.)  
Sunken Meadow Parkway  
Sunken Meadow State Park (N.Y.)  
Valley Stream State Park  
Walt Whitman Historic Site  
Wantagh State Parkway  
Wildwood State Park  
Wyandanch Preserve

**Subject(s):**

Beaches--New York (State)--Long Island.  
Civil service -- New York (State)  
Courts--New York (State)  
Eminent domain--New York (State)  
Highway-railroad grade crossings  
Labor unions.  
Land titles--New York (State)--Long Island.  
New York (State). Court of Claims  
New York (State). Court of Appeals  
New York State Park Police  
New York (State). Supreme Court  
New York (State). Supreme Court. Appellate Division  
Parks--Management--New York (State)  
Parks--New York (State)--Long Island.  
Parks--New York (State)--Suffolk County--Maps.  
Parks--New York (State)--Long Island--Maps.  
Parkways--New York (State)  
Parkways--New York (State)--Long Island--Design and construction--History.  
Postwar reconstruction  
Public spaces--New York (State)--New York--History--20th century.  
Public works--New York (State)--Long Island.  
Recreation areas--New York (State)  
Roads--Right of way  
Trial and arbitral proceedings  
United States. Works Progress Administration (N.Y.)

**Genre(s):**

agreements  
annual reports  
appraisals (financial records)  
architectural surveys  
blueprints (reprographic copies)  
briefs (legal documents)  
contracts  
correspondence  
deeds

depositions  
easements  
ledgers (account books)  
memoranda  
minutes (administrative records)  
mortgages  
project files  
promotional materials  
property records  
reports  
transcripts

**Function(s):**

Accounting  
Acquisition of property  
Highway engineering  
Highway planning  
Litigation  
Parks--New York (State)--Management.  
Parks--New York (State)--Planning.  
Parks--New York (State)--Public use.  
Parkways--United States--Design and construction.  
Roads--Design and construction.

**SERIES I: Long Island State Park Commission Administrative Records**

**Dates:** 1914-1994, bulk 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 72 cubic feet; 69 record boxes and 40 volumes

**Scope and Content Note:** This series consists of records created, received, and maintained by the administrative offices of the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Park Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. They cover a wide variety of functions related to daily operations and management of departmental and organizational affairs. They reveal policies, processes, procedures, actions, and activities involved in the establishment and oversight of State public recreational facilities (such as

parks and beaches) and mass transportation infrastructure (such as parkways and bridges) in the Long Island region of New York.

While the records span from the early decades of the 1900s to the 1990s, the bulk of materials within this series date from the time Robert Moses presided over the Commission and Authorities (1924-1963) until their respective dissolution and incorporation dates in the late 1970s. Since all shared a headquarters building and leadership, records stemming from operations of all three entities can often be found intermingled within the file units of this series. Files also sometimes contain records originating from or directed to the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation, New York State Parks and Recreation, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The **Meeting Minutes** subseries documents 20<sup>th</sup> century board proceedings of the Bethpage Corporation, Bethpage Park Authority, (New York State) Board of Commissioners of the Land Office, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, Long Island State Park Commission, Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission, and the New York State Council of Parks. Summarized information regarding the creation, maintenance, and management of state parks and parkways, in addition to many other issues, can be found here.

The **Brochures** subseries is composed of promotional booklets dating from 1933 to 1988. These records are particularly strong in concise histories of State parks and parkways in the Long Island region, as well as other similar projects in New York State.

**Reports** encompasses a variety of loose reports related to annual documentation, construction of parks and parkways, and neighborhood improvement projects. Bound report books are annual compilations of materials published throughout the year they represent. Publications included are brochures, newspapers, magazines, reports, speeches, articles, and press releases. This subseries is an extremely valuable resource for information about individual public works projects and related topics concerning various parts of New York State, including the Long Island region.

The **Robert Moses Correspondence Files** contain incoming and copies of outgoing correspondence created and received by Robert Moses between the years 1930-1949, with a bulk of materials from 1937. Arranged chronologically, as they were kept by Moses, these files provide excellent insight into the daily affairs and activities of Moses and the Long Island State Park Commission during the Depression and World War II eras.

The **Robert Moses Speeches and Articles** subseries is composed of transcripts of presentations and introductions delivered by Moses at various public events. There are also copies and drafts of articles on a variety of subjects related to public works written by Moses. These files are an important source of information for analysis of the viewpoints of Robert Moses as a driving force behind many public works projects in New York. The bulk of materials date from 1934 to 1964.

**Subject Files** consist of compilations of a wide assortment of materials covering an extremely broad range of subject matter. Materials within these files date from 1895 to 1974 and are arranged according to topic. These records serve as excellent reference material regarding public works, particularly during the era of leadership and oversight of Long Island and New York State Parks by Robert Moses.

The majority of this series is composed of **General Correspondence Files**, which contain letters and memoranda reflecting daily concerns, affairs, and activities of the Long Island State Park Commission, in addition to the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority and Bethpage Park Authority. Information regarding numerous subjects, locations, and prominent individuals as relative to the Commission and Authorities can be found in these files, which span the years 1923-1983. The active involvement of Robert Moses in Commission affairs is heavily reflected in many of these records.

The **Jones Beach Marine Theater** records relate to theatrical shows produced throughout various incarnations of the theater and during the era Guy Lombardo served as promoter and musical director.

**Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve** records concern the former Marshall Field Estate and planning and development of the land into a State park from the 1950s to the 1970s.

The **Periodicals** subseries consists of news clipping scrapbooks related to establishment of Heckscher State Park in the 1920s and the Depression-era battle between Robert Moses and Harold Ickes over PWA federal funding of public works projects in New York. There are also copies of serial publications containing articles about Robert Moses or New York-area parks.

The bulk of the **Books and Manuals** subseries consists of published and unpublished 20<sup>th</sup> century materials related to Long Island, New York State, or prominent public individuals.

**Arrangement:** This series consists of eleven subseries. Materials within each subseries have been processed to the folder level unless otherwise specified.

## **Subseries A: Meeting Minutes**

**Dates:** 1922-1980

**Physical Description (Extent):** 4 cubic feet; 4 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of Meeting Minutes that document proceedings of the Bethpage Corporation, Bethpage Park Authority, (New York State) Board of Commissioners of the Land Office, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, Long Island State Park Commission, Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission, and the New York State Council of Parks. Minutes were generally recorded by the secretary of each Board and are rich in concise descriptions of issues, discussions, and actions taken by members concerning the creation, maintenance, and management of State parks and parkways.

Meeting Minutes for the Bethpage Corporation cover the years 1932-1934 and document effort prior to the establishment of the Bethpage Park Authority to operate Bethpage State Park by way of a non-profit organization established specifically for that purpose. Meeting Minutes for the Bethpage Park Authority cover the years 1933-1976. The records also contain an index for the minutes for the years 1959-1976, plus copies of the Bethpage Park Authority's by-laws, information regarding the purchase of the property for Bethpage State Park, issuance of \$1,000,000 in bonds to cover the cost of the mortgage, and description of the Authority's final termination processes.

Minutes for Meetings of the Long Island State Park Commission cover most years from 1924 to 1976 and document the majority of proceedings during the five decades of the Commission's existence—from its foundation in 1924 to its final merging into the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation during the 1970s. These records often also contain ordinances and amendments to ordinances, plus transcripts of important correspondence related to matters discussed during meetings. Copies of some annual reports can be found here, including the Commission's first annual report, and there is an index for all meetings between 1924 and 1976. There are also minutes for the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission for meetings between the years 1973-1980.

Meeting minutes for the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority cover the organization's existence from 1933-1977 and include an index for the years 1959-1976. Within these records are the Authority's by-laws and 1933 organizational meeting minutes, as well as information regarding bond resolutions, bank loans, promissory notes, and arrangements for the final termination of the Authority in 1978.

This subseries also contains Meeting Minutes for the New York State Board of Commissioners of the Land Office for the years 1922 and 1928-1951. There is a gap in the documentation between the years 1923-1927. Meeting Minutes for the New York State Council of Parks in this subseries are copies of the originals and date from 1938 to 1965. There is a gap in documentation for the years 1956-1957 and 1961-1964. Minutes for 1943, 1945, and 1949 are incomplete and information for some individual meetings during those years is missing.

**Arrangement:** Meeting minutes are arranged alphabetically by organization, then chronologically.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries B:** Brochures

**Dates:** 1933-1988

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.25 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of materials that describe and advertise various aspects of New York State, with a particular focus on the Long Island region. It includes items like opening addresses and dedication ceremony documents for bridges, parks and parkways, plus informational items promoting activities and places of interest throughout the state. Subjects and locations covered in this subseries include the Triborough Bridge, Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, Throgs Neck Bridge, Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, Taconic State Parkway, Sunken Meadow State Park and Parkway, Saint Lawrence River Power Dam, Niagara Power Station, Robert Moses State Park, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, New York World's Fair, City of New York public memorials, Heckscher State Park and Parkway, Caumsett State Park, Captree State Park and Parkway, Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, Bethpage State Park, Belmont Lake State Park, and Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park. These materials usually contain both text and photographic images and are an extremely rich source of concise histories on a variety of subjects and locations related to public works projects throughout the state.

**Arrangement:** These files are arranged alphabetically by geographic location, park or parkway project, topic, or title of brochure.

**Container List:**

## **Subseries C: Reports**

**Dates:** 1920-1982

**Physical Description (Extent):** 16 cubic feet; 10 record boxes and 40 bound volumes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of loose reports and bound annual report books. In addition to annual reports for various New York State government agencies and reports from other states for use as reference material, the loose reports include outlines for park and parkway construction ventures and plans for neighborhood improvement. Bound annual report books are compilations of materials published throughout the year they represent. Publications include brochures and various printed report booklets, newspapers, magazines, transcripts of public speeches given by Robert Moses, articles, and press releases. Items of note include a 1938 Fire Island Restoration and Protection Report, reports regarding slum clearance projects, progress reports for the New York World's Fair, and Railroad Grade Elimination reports.

**Arrangement:** Loose reports are arranged alphabetically by title. Bound report books are arranged chronologically by year.

**Container List:**

## **Subseries D: Robert Moses Correspondence Files**

**Dates:** 1930-1949, bulk 1937

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.5 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains correspondence files compiled by Robert Moses during his tenure as President of the Long Island Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. Additionally, these files sometimes contain Moses correspondence created and received during the period he served as Chairman of the New York State Council of Parks. Items within this subseries originate from early in the Depression-era to the post-World War II period and document Moses' oversight and substantial involvement in Commission and Authority affairs. The bulk of correspondence was generated in 1937. Gap years where no records exist are 1939, 1941, and 1947-1948. In addition to letters, these files often contain materials like memoranda and press releases. Items of note include a 1930 Moses report to then-New York State Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt about main arterial express highways through Queens County. Within these files is also information about federal aid for Works Progress Administration (WPA) relief projects in state parks, the Reconstruction Finance



Corporation, the National Industrial Recovery Act, and Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works projects. There is also correspondence between Moses and New York Governor Herbert H. Lehman about a Long Island State Park Commission budget reduction, items related to acquisition of portions of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway by the State, and a press release created by Moses about the future of the parkway. Correspondence between Marron Price Guggenheim and Moses concerning drainage issues on the Grand Central Parkway can be found here, in addition to a 1936 press release detailing the failure of the Governor to reappoint Moses to his posts although his term was expiring.

**Arrangement:** Moses correspondence files are arranged chronologically, then alphabetically within each year.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries E:** Robert Moses Speeches and Articles

**Dates:** 1909-1964, bulk 1934-1964

**Physical Description (Extent):** 3.5 cubic feet; 4 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of transcripts of speeches, talks, and short introductions and presentations delivered by Robert Moses at various public events. Also within these files are articles written by Moses for various publications, a few published articles written about Moses by others, and periodic press releases issued by Moses. While the bulk of records span the years 1934-1964, transcripts for speeches given by Moses in 1961 are missing. Copies of 1961 speeches can instead be found within the bound volumes of annual reports in the Administrative Reports subseries. Transcripts and other materials found within this subseries reveal that Moses wrote and spoke prolifically for numerous publications and at a variety of locations throughout New York State during his time as the “master builder.” Subjects covered within these files include post-World War II rebuilding, buses on parkways, park and parkway development, slum clearance, civil service, urban planning, government-subsidized housing, policing, traffic congestion, race relations, and parkway extension on Fire Island to protect from erosion and storm damage. Items of note include a First Godkin Lecture at Harvard given by Moses in April 1939, during which he discusses how social equity and tolerance cannot be legislated, but instead should progress slowly and be based on mutual respect rather than force. He claims legislative bills were being used as political force to stir up minority groups before political elections and addresses racial issues in public recreation areas and civil service.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged chronologically by item.

**Container List:**

**Subseries F:** Subject Files

**Dates:** 1895-1974, bulk 1926-1962

**Physical Description (Extent):** 9 cubic feet; 9 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** Files within this subseries contain a multitude of items related to individuals, locations, and topics that were combined together to serve as reference material for Long Island Park Commission members and administrative staff. Included are materials created by the Long Island Park Commission, Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, New York State Council of Parks, and the City of New York Department of Parks. These items include correspondence created and received by Robert Moses and legal counsellor Raymond P. McNulty, as well as general correspondence, memoranda, advertisement brochures, maps, blueprints, letters patent, printed legislation, bills of sale, subpoenas, legal documents, press releases, notes, historic postcards of Jones Beach, and photostats of historic documents. Some matters covered by the records are regulation of roadside advertising, proposed location of the Bronx River Parkway through the New York Botanical Gardens, Coney Island improvement and beautification plans, Fire Island improvement and reconstruction after the 1938 hurricane, permits for street meetings at Union Square Park speaking, picketing in public recreation spaces, anti-union issues, city sanitation, the Ickes-Moses controversy over Public Works Administration funding, policing state parks and parkways, and Bowling Green park restoration.

Items of note include 1941 correspondence between Moses and Nelson Rockefeller regarding an aquarium at Coney Island and a press statement concerning the removal of the New York Aquarium from Battery Park. There is also a 1937 letter from Moses to Rockefeller detailing sale under foreclosure of Gardiner's Island by the widow of Lion Gardiner where the possibility of the Rockefeller Foundation purchasing and presenting the island to the state is addressed. Additionally, there is a 1939 objection written by Moses to New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia about proposed revisions to civil service rules. The New York State Council of Parks files contain copies of meeting minutes and Moses correspondence on Council and State Park issues. This subseries also contains a copy of a 1943 New York Times article written by Robert Moses regarding African Americans, racial tensions, white flight, and segregation. The Jones Beach State

Parkway Authority subject files hold letters from white patrons regarding integrated facilities and sharing bathing spaces with colored patrons at Jones Beach State Park. These letters contain some derogatory language.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Container List:**

## **Subseries G:** General Correspondence Files

**Dates:** 1923-1983

**Physical Description (Extent):** 20 cubic feet; 20 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of correspondence files compiled and maintained by the Long Island State Park Commission during the ordinary course of daily business operations. While the majority of material relates to Long Island State Park Commission affairs, due to involvement of Robert Moses with multiple entities these files also sometimes contain correspondence created by or directed to the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, the Bethpage Park Authority, the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, and the New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation. Some files contain New York State Parks and Recreation correspondence as well. While the records consist primarily of handwritten and typed incoming and outgoing correspondence related to Commission affairs, they also sometimes contain related memoranda and items referenced within the correspondence, such as legal documents, maps and property surveys, vandalism and damage reports, employment reports, press releases, meeting agendas, news clippings, brochures, invoices, and photographs. Subjects covered within the correspondence include pollution and environmental conditions, racial tensions and conflict, park entrance fees, accusations of alcoholism among Court of Claims judges, Bella Moses estate information, Postwar Reconstruction Fund, the New York Aquarium, Coney Island, Mitchel Field Air Force Base, American Jewish Congress, Park Police, Urban Renewal Projects, Long Island Motor Parkway, Long Island Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, discrimination, corruption, nepotism, legislative bills, civil service, labor union activity, and workers' compensation. These files include communication with or items that contain references to prominent figures such as Robert David Lion Gardiner, Carl Fisher, Richard Nixon, Herbert H. Lehman, Ward Melville, Thomas E. Dewey, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Jacob K. Javitz, Alfred E. Smith, Ed Sullivan, Oscar Hammerstein II, W. Kingsland Macy, August Heckscher, Robert F. Wagner Jr., Harold L. Ickes, Franklin D.

Roosevelt, Fiorello La Guardia, Pierce Trowbridge Wetter, Roy Wilkins, and Lincoln Lynch.

**Arrangement:** General Correspondence files are arranged alphabetically by park, agency, or subject and then chronologically.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries H:** Jones Beach Marine Theater

**Dates:** 1937-1986

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2.25 cubic feet; 3 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** The Jones Beach Marine Theater is an outdoor amphitheater on Zach's Bay at Jones Beach State Park located in the hamlet of Wantagh in Nassau County. The first version of the amphitheater was constructed during the 1930s, but this structure fell into disuse and disrepair due to wartime regulations enacted during World War II. After being rebuilt as a modern concrete structure, the theater reopened in 1952 as the Jones Beach Marine Stadium. The new structure was a "floating amphitheater" with a moat between the stage and seats. Although the moat was filled in 1991 to make room for additional seating, at the time of its creation the Jones Beach amphitheater was considered an architectural feat and equipped with a revolving center stage and an underwater tunnel. This subseries is composed of show programs and original musical scores created by Carmen Lombardo and John Jacob Loeb during Guy Lombardo's tenure as promoter and musical director of the theater.

**Arrangement:** These files are arranged by format (sheet music or program) and then alphabetically by title of production.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries I:** Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve

**Dates:** 1955-1975

**Physical Description (Extent):** .5 cubic feet; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** The Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve was acquired by New York State in 1961 from Marshall Field III and includes 1,750 acres in Lloyd Neck on Long Island's North Shore in Suffolk County. This subseries is composed of

documents related to daily activities at Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve, including the study and use of environmental resources and wildlife, park development and planning, and public outreach. Items also include original shipping labels and a phone directory from the former Marshall Field Estate.

**Arrangement:** These files are arranged alphabetically by subject or geographic location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries J:** Periodicals

**Dates:** 1925-1994

**Physical Description (Extent):** 3 cubic feet; 3 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of news clipping scrapbooks created by the Long Island State Park Commission during the era it was directed by Robert Moses. It also is composed of printed serial publications, such as newspapers and magazines, containing articles about Long Island State Parks, New York State, Robert Moses, or prominent local individuals involved in park creation and management during the Moses era. Issues of the monthly magazine *Parks and Recreation* published between August 1963 and August 1965 can be found here, with the exception of the November 1964 and December 1964 issues. Items of note include newspaper clipping scrapbooks related to the Robert Moses and Harold Ickes controversy over federal Public Works Administration (PWA) funding during the 1930s and the legal battle to establish Heckscher State Park on the former George C. Taylor Estate in the Town of Islip.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries K:** Books and Manuals

**Dates:** 1914-1981

**Physical Description (Extent):** 11 cubic feet; 11 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of both published and unpublished works, including legislative manuals, executive budgets, employee manuals, handbooks, directories, and structural construction books that formerly belonged to park engineer

V.M. Caldwell. It also contains published literature about Long Island, New York State, and public individuals prominent during the early to mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to item level.

**Container List:**

## **SERIES II: Long Island State Park Commission Legal Records**

**Dates:** 1650-2013, bulk 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 236 cubic feet; 1 flat file and 246 boxes (including 234 record boxes, 1 document box, 10 card boxes, and 1 flat storage box)

**Scope and Content Note:** The legal records series consists of an extensive number of subseries documenting the acquisition and appropriation of property by the Long Island State Park Commission, and sometimes the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority or Bethpage Park Authority, on behalf of New York State for the creation of public parks and parkways throughout Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island. Records from the Commission and Authorities are often intermingled within these file units. This series also includes files related to public works in the City of New York, as well as proposed park and parkway projects in Nassau and Suffolk Counties that never came to fruition. Additionally, some files contain records created by New York State Parks and Recreation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation due to organizational evolution.

New York State parks located in Nassau County that are documented within this series include Bethpage State Park, Hempstead Lake State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Massapequa State Park Preserve, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, and Valley Stream State Park. New York State parks located in Suffolk County that are documented within this series include Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park, Belmont Lake State Park, Caleb Smith State Park Preserve (formerly Wyandanch Preserve), Captree State Park, Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve, Connetquot River State Park Preserve, Gilgo State Park, Heckscher State Park, Hither Hills State Park, Montauk Point State Park, Orient Beach State Park, Robert Moses State Park, Sunken Meadow State Park, and Wildwood State Park.

State parkways located in Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island that are documented within this series include Bethpage State Parkway, Heckscher State

Parkway, Loop Parkway, Meadowbrook State Parkway, Northern State Parkway, Ocean Parkway, Robert Moses Causeway (formerly Captree Causeway), Sagtikos State Parkway, Southern State Parkway, Sunken Meadow State Parkway, and the Wantagh State Parkway. Also included are files related to the Long Island Expressway.

Although the majority of records pertain geographically to the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, this series also is composed of records related to projects outside of the region due to the involvement of Robert Moses with various public bodies in New York State while serving as President of the Long Island State Park Commission. Materials pertaining to parks and parkways in the boroughs of New York City, including Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Manhattan, can also be found here. These records relate to the Jackie Robinson Parkway (formerly Interborough Parkway), Grand Central Parkway, Jacob Riis Park (Rockaway), Conduit Boulevard (Conduit Avenue), Cross Island Parkway, Grand Central Parkway, Laurelton Parkway, and Battery Park.

This series is composed primarily of **Case Files** that consist of documentation related to specific parcels of land acquired through sale or claimed by eminent domain for park and parkway creation purposes by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority on behalf of New York State. These land records provide excellent evidence of negotiations and acquisition procedures. Files are usually arranged according to surnames of original owners or corporate names, and include various forms of legal paperwork such as deeds, mortgages, land appraisals, contracts, agreements, land titles, property descriptions, and property surveys and blueprints, plus correspondence and memoranda.

The **Indexes** subseries consists of internal Park Commission finding aids primarily in the form of card catalogs. Property map indexes ordered according to map number and proposal number, as well as an alphabetical subject index, can be found here.

**Court Case Files** contain records pertaining to major litigation proceedings involving the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority at all levels of the New York State court system. Included in these files are legal documents concerning disputes related to Jones Beach State Park, Heckscher State Park, and Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve, and Battery Park in Manhattan. Other cases relate to issues such as rights to lands under water and parkway advertising. Materials in these files consist of litigation papers like briefs, reply briefs, motions, appeal papers, notes and data, and transcripts, as well as correspondence and memoranda. The bulk of materials date from 1924 to 1959.

**Legal Counsel Files** consist of personal files of attorneys who served as legal counsel for the Long Island State Park Commission. These records contain supplementary information for the Court Case Files and cover topics like land acquisition and appropriation, rights to lands under water, speeding on parkways, and advertisement on parkways and beaches. The bulk of these items date from 1925 to 1958.

**Agreement Files** contain various types of legal agreements made by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority for park and parkway purposes on Long Island. These files span many towns and villages in the region and cover topics related to public transportation and recreation such as easements, insurance, leases, lighting, and other issues.

The **Appraisals** subseries contains property appraisal reports created by professional appraisers for the Commission and Authorities prior to the acquisition of certain parcels of land on Long Island.

**New York State Council of Parks** files relate primarily to legal issues surrounding individual bond funds for State parks and parkways within cities, villages, towns, and counties throughout New York.

**Arrangement:** This series consists of thirty-five subseries. Case files are arranged by park or parkway, while additional subseries are identified by format or subject of the records. Items have been processed to the folder level unless otherwise specified.

## **Subseries A: Indexes**

**Dates:** undated

**Physical Description (Extent):** 5 cubic feet; 10 2x3x12" card boxes and 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains land records indexes, including a *Property Map Index by Proposal Number* that lists land appropriations numerically by proposal number from 1 to 1914. Most cards supply the name of the property owner and project the land was appropriated for. There is also a *Property Map Index* listing entries numerically by map number from 1R to 44R, as well as the parkway or park the land was appropriated or conveyed for, the geographic location of property, name of the former property owners, size of property, parcel designation, and date acquired. Parks and parkways covered by this index include Southern State Parkway, Ocean Parkway,



Northern State Parkway, Babylon Spur, Heckscher State Park, Wildwood State Park, Sunken Meadow State Park, Hither Hills State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Hempstead State Park, Meadowbrook State Parkway, Massapequa State Park, Orient State Park, Jones Beach Causeway, Belmont Lake State Park, Robert Moses/Captree Causeway, Valley Stream State Park, Montauk Point State Park, Wantagh State Parkway, Sagtikos State Parkway, Sunken Meadow State Parkway, Heckscher State Park, Gilgo State Park, Interborough Parkway, Bethpage State Park, Bethpage State Parkway, Cross Island Parkway, Suffolk County Survey, Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park, and Caumsett State Park. The *Subject Index* lists appropriations for parks and parkways by surname, contracts for services by company name, and other topics alphabetically. Individual parks and parkways can be found listed under the letter "P". There is also a Contract Index searchable by contract number and a lease index for the Outer Beaches that dates from the early 1900s to the 1940s. It covers the areas of Oak Beach, Oak Island, Captree Island, Gilgo Beach, High Hill Beach, Jones Beach, and Short Beach.

**Arrangement:** Indexes are arranged to the item level.

**Container List:**

**Subseries B:** Court Case Files

**Dates:** 1666-1963, bulk 1924-1959

**Physical Description (Extent):** 16 cubic feet; 14 record boxes and 1 2x19x25" flat storage box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains judicial records and related materials pertaining to legal cases involving the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority. Commission President Robert Moses and other prominent members of the Commission and Authority are sometimes also included as defendants or plaintiffs in these cases. Most records within these files pertain to disputes presided over by various levels of the New York State court system. This includes proceedings of the Court of Claims, County Courts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Supreme Court, Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court, and the Court of Appeals.

Many files concern issues related to Jones Beach State Park, particularly the Seaman's Gore case. Other major litigation proceedings represented include the battle between Moses and W. Kingsland Macy's Pauchogue Land Corporation for land that eventually became Heckscher State Park. Additionally, there is documentation relating to State control of lands in Montauk and issues related to State acquisition of the Marshall Field

Estate. This subseries also includes information in the *Wetter v. Moses* files about housing the New York Aquarium within Fort Clinton in Battery Park during the 1940s. A copy of *Wetter's* penitentiary record can be found here, in addition to *Moses* letters to *LaGuardia* regarding the controversy. *Moses* correspondence with individuals such as *Kermit Roosevelt*, *Adlai E. Stevenson*, and *Charles B. Davenport* can also be found within this subseries.

Other subjects represented in these records include rights to lands under water along Long Island's coastlines, civil service and park police, speeding and towing on parkways, park and parkway advertising, labor unions and picketing, and property acquisition for park and parkway development. Types of litigation papers include briefs, reply briefs, motions, appeal papers, court exhibits, judgment roll documents, affidavits, petitions, depositions, legal counsel notes and data, and transcripts of court proceedings. Items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, maps, and press releases can also be found here. The majority of records date from the early 1900s to the 1960s. However, these files also contain Photostats of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century historic land deeds and maps made in the 1930s.

**Arrangement:** Court case files are arranged alphabetically by subject of case and then loosely chronologically.

**Container List:**

**Subseries C: Legal Counsel Files**

**Dates:** 1650-1969, bulk 1925-1958

**Physical Description (Extent):** 4 cubic feet; 4 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains records amassed by *Charles S. Noyes*, *G. Frank Dougherty*, and *Walter H. Pollak* during the time each served as legal counsel for the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority. The files relate primarily to judicial proceedings and related preparatory work. They consist of various forms of legal records, including briefs, reply briefs, drafts, legal notes and data, and other types of litigation papers. The files also hold correspondence, memoranda, and additional materials compiled by these attorneys while representing the Commission, Authority, *Robert Moses* (and other prominent members of Commission and Authority) in courts of law. Most records pertain to disputes argued and decided at various levels of the New York State court system. This includes

proceedings of the Court of Claims, County Courts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Supreme Court, Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court, and the Court of Appeals. Documentation for court cases centered on land acquisition in the towns of Islip, Babylon, Brookhaven, Smithtown, Oyster Bay, Hempstead, and on Fire Island can be found here. There is also information regarding Native American lands and rights to lands under water along the coastlines of Long Island.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged alphabetically by individual surname and then loosely chronologically.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries D:** Agreement Files

**Dates:** 1906-2013, bulk 1930-1960

**Physical Description (Extent):** 19 cubic feet; 19 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files containing legal agreements made by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority related to parks and parkways on Long Island. Agreements within these files cover most towns and villages in the Long Island region and relate to things like easements, drainage, insurance, lighting, garbage disposal, licensing, leases, property acquisition, and other issues concerning public transportation and recreation. Many files contain also contain items like correspondence, memoranda, property surveys and blueprints, purchase vouchers, permits, insurance policies, leases, deeds, property descriptions, photostats, land titles and inspection reports, mortgages, deeds, and photographs. Items of note include 1959-1961 correspondence between Robert Moses and New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller regarding the Marshall Field Estate, a Nature Conservancy report with photos of Caumsett State Park wildlife, photostats of original deeds for Caumsett State Park property, permits for State use of Massapequa Lake, and a 1938 James Christie deed for Meadow Island. Also within these files are records for lands on parkways and local farms rented by the Commission, plus Jones Beach Marine Theater contracts and the Walt Whitman House transfer of jurisdiction.

**Arrangement:** Agreement files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries E:** Appraisals

**Dates:** 1959-1976

**Physical Description (Extent):** 5 cubic feet; 5 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of property appraisal reports created by professional appraisers for the Long Island State Park Commission. The files document estimated values of specific plots of land throughout the Long Island region, as determined by the appraisers. The appraisals were used by the Commission for acquisition and appropriation of land to create or expand parks and parkways. Included within these reports are photographs of land and structures, grading information, and estimated appraisal values.

**Arrangement:** Appraisals are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries F:** Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park Case Files

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park. The park is located in Great River in the Town of Islip, on the South Shore of Suffolk County. The records in these files include items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries G:** Belmont Lake State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1926-2004, bulk 1926-1965

**Physical Description (Extent):** 7.5 cubic feet; 8 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of property by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Belmont Lake State Park, as well as the Commission's regional headquarters building. The park is located in the Town of Babylon, on the South Shore of Suffolk County. Included within case files are items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts and agreements, land titles and inspection reports, purchase vouchers, property surveys and blueprints, property descriptions, and tax bills. Items of note include correspondence between Eleanor Robson Belmont and Robert Moses regarding purchase of the August Belmont Estate, as well as highway and drainage easements, documents related to encroachment issues, and the Commission's use of post-war reconstruction funds in the area following World War II.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries H:** Bethpage State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1930-1985

**Physical Description (Extent):** 4 cubic feet; 4 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of property by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Bethpage State Park. The park is located in the Town of Oyster Bay in Nassau County. Included within these files are items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts and agreements, land titles and inspection reports, purchase vouchers, property surveys and blueprints, property descriptions, and tax bills. Items of note include documents related to the Yoakum Estate, Bethpage State Park fire insurance documentation, vandalism reports, agreements related to the riding academy and polo games, plus information concerning Nassau County dedications of land.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

## **Subseries I:** Bethpage State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1952-2007

**Physical Description (Extent):** 8.5 cubic feet; 9 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Bethpage State Parkway. The parkway is located in Nassau County and extends from the village of North Massapequa to Bethpage State Park in the hamlet of Old Bethpage. The land was originally part of the New York City watershed properties on Long Island. These files include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts and agreements, property titles, abstracts of title, inspection reports, purchase vouchers, tax bills, property descriptions, and property surveys. Items of note include materials related to the story of Audrey D. Buenaventura, who staged an armed protest against the taking of her land by the State. The files also contain information regarding lands formerly owned by the Jones, Hewlett, and Willetts families.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

## **Subseries J:** Caleb Smith State Park Preserve Case Files

**Dates:** 1843-1980

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.5 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Caleb Smith State Park Preserve. The preserve is located in the Town of Smithtown in Suffolk County. Established primarily on private land once known as the Wyandanch Preserve, Robert Moses began negotiations to acquire the property in 1962 and the purchase was completed by the Commission in 1963. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, land appraisals, contracts and agreements, title searches and reports, property descriptions, tax assessments and bills, property surveys, and press releases. Items of note include records related to Nissequogue River State Park (the prior name of

Caleb Smith State Park Preserve), as well as original Wyandanch Club and Brooklyn Gun Club deeds dating from 1819.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries K:** Captree State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1952-1982, bulk 1952-1971

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Captree State Parkway. The parkway was renamed Robert Moses Causeway in 1963 in honor of former Commission President Robert Moses following his resignation. It is located on the South Shore of Suffolk County and extends from the Southern State Parkway over the Great South Bay and Fire Island Inlet, providing access to Robert Moses State Park on the west end of Fire Island. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, land appraisals, contracts, agreements, property title reports, abstracts of title, land inspection reports, property descriptions, property surveys and blueprints, tax bills, and tax receipts. Items of note include correspondence between Moses and W. Kingsland Macy, plus contracts for engineering projects and parkway lighting with the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO).

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries L:** Caumsett State Historical Park Preserve Case Files

**Dates:** 1882-1994

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** The Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve was acquired by New York State in 1961 from the widow of Marshall Field III and includes 1,750 acres on

Lloyd Neck on Long Island's North Shore in Suffolk County. This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of property by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Caumsett State Historical Park Preserve. Included within these files are items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts and agreements, land titles and inspection reports, purchase vouchers, property surveys and blueprints, property descriptions, and tax bills. Items of note include Field Foundation records and documents related to the light house property in Lloyds Neck Park.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

**Subseries M:** City of New York Case Files

**Dates:** 1885-2013, bulk 1925-1963

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box and 1 flat file

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State for the creation of parks and parkways in the environs of New York City. These materials were primarily created by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority and the City of New York Department of Parks and relate to roadways in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Files include information regarding Conduit Boulevard (Conduit Avenue), Cross Island Parkway, Grand Central Parkway, Interborough Parkway, and Laurelton Parkway. In addition to legal contracts, maps, correspondence, and memoranda, these records also include deeds, photos of Hoffman and Swinburne Islands in Lower New York Bay off Staten Island, and engineering plans for potential parkway projects related to a 1935 proposed bill. There is also a 24 x36" photostat of a 1926 certificate from the City of New York Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity atlas listing Nassau County lands used for water supply purposes released for park purposes.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container list:**



**Subseries N:** Connetquot River State Park Preserve Case Files

**Dates:** 1961-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** .25 cubic feet; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of property by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Connetquot River State Park Preserve. The park is located on the Connetquot River in the Town of Islip in Suffolk County. Included within these files are items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts and agreements, land titles and inspection reports, purchase vouchers, property surveys and blueprints, property descriptions, and tax bills. Items of note are materials related to the South Side Sportsmen's Club, the upper class hunting and recreational club that previously occupied what is now park land.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged chronologically by year.

**Container List:**

**Subseries O:** Fire Island Case Files

**Dates:** 1921-1966, bulk 1951-1965

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files related to Fire Island, a barrier beach island located in the Atlantic Ocean off the South Shore of Long Island in Suffolk County. These files primarily pertain to the acquisition and appropriation of land for the creation of Robert Moses State Park on the west end of Fire Island, as well as construction of a bridge over the Fire Island Inlet. The records include correspondence, reports, contracts and agreements, press releases, engineering diagrams, invoices, and survey maps. Items of note are documents concerning Park Commission relinquishment of land to the United States Coast Guard for improvement of the Coast Guard Station on Fire Island. Also of note is a 1959 letter from Robert Moses to Governor Nelson Rockefeller discussing possible parkway extension to Smith's Point, at the east end of the barrier island.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries P:** Gilgo State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1923-1999, bulk 1927-1952

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Gilgo State Park. The park is located on Jones Beach Island, a barrier beach in the Town of Babylon. It lies between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great South Bay off the South Shore of Long Island. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, resolutions, contracts and agreements, and maps. Items of note include documents related to negotiations between the United States Coast Guard and the Park Commission to lease land for a Coast Guard Station, plus a request to transfer control of the Jones Beach Lifeboat Station to the Park Commission during the 1940s. These files also contain documentation regarding transfer of nearby lands under water, as well as items related to Cedar Island and Cedar Beach.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries Q:** Heckscher State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1923-1983, bulk 1924-1963

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.75 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Heckscher State Park. The park is located on the South Shore of Suffolk County in the Town of Islip. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts and agreements, subpoenas, memoranda, summonses, complaints, property surveys and blueprints, property descriptions, certificates of incorporation, photographs, news clippings, and press releases. Items of note include documents related to the legal battle between Robert Moses and W. Kingsland Macy's Pauchogue Corporation to purchase the former George C. Taylor Estate from the Deer Range Corporation. Also within these files are documents related to August Heckscher and his assistance in ultimately establishing the park, including

correspondence and a copy of Governor Alfred E. Smith's statement regarding Heckscher's gift to the State. There is also correspondence between Macy and Moses during the 1950s regarding the Timber Point Club and information concerning the sale of land adjacent to Heckscher State Park owned by Bernard Baruch. A copy of the will of George C. Taylor, histories of the Taylor Estate battle, a State of New York Statement of Votes cast for Proposition One on state parks, and correspondence clarifying the correct spelling of the Natanset Corporation (rather than Nantanset) can also be found here.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries R:** Heckscher State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1927-1990, bulk 1927-1979

**Physical Description (Extent):** 17 cubic feet; 17 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Heckscher State Parkway. The parkway is located in the Town of Islip in Suffolk County. The records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts, agreements, vouchers, property titles, invoices, abstracts of title, inspection reports, property descriptions, property survey and blueprints, title searches, easements, and reports. Items of note include documents detailing roads closed to build the Heckscher Spur.

**Arrangement:** Case files in boxes 1-9 are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location. Boxes 10-17 have been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries S:** Hempstead Lake State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1927-1987, bulk 1934-1966

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long

Island State Park Commission for the creation of Hempstead Lake State Park. The park is located in the Town of Hempstead in Nassau County on land that was originally part of the New York City watershed properties on Long Island. Files within this subseries include items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, land appraisals, contracts, agreements, property surveys and blueprints, property descriptions, and tax bills. Items of note include documents transferring title for the Pines Pond area to the Malverne public school district for a new high school during the 1950s.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries T:** Jones Beach State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1915-1978

**Physical Description (Extent):** 9 cubic feet; 9 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of property by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Jones Beach State Park. Considered one of Robert Moses' greatest accomplishments, Jones Beach State Park is located on the outer barrier beach island lying in the Atlantic Ocean off the South Shore of Long Island in Nassau County. Included within these case files are items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts and agreements, land titles and inspection reports, purchase vouchers, property surveys and blueprints, property descriptions, and tax bills. Items of note include Bee Line Bus company contracts, Cedar Island and Muncie Island appropriation documents, Jones Beach Boulevard estate records, and Marine Theater agreements and contracts.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries U:** Loop Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1922-1971, bulk 1954-1968

**Physical Description (Extent):** .5 cubic feet; 1 document box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Loop Parkway. The parkway is located on the South Shore of Nassau County and serves as a spur route connecting the barrier island of Long Beach to Jones Beach State Park via the Meadowbrook Parkway. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, depositions, purchase vouchers, and property surveys. Items of note include agreements with the Long Island Lighting Company concerning removal of the lighting system at the parkway entrance on Lido Boulevard in Long Beach and documents related to improvement projects.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries V:** Massapequa State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1909-1981, bulk 1925-1965

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Massapequa State Park in the Town of Oyster Bay in Nassau County. The area was originally part of the New York City watershed properties on Long Island, and these files document the dedication of land and granting of easements by the City of New York to the State for public park purposes shortly after the Park Commission was formed in the 1920s. Nassau County acquired the area in 1981 and it is now operated as a public park known as the Massapequa Preserve under direction of the Nassau County Department of Recreation and Parks. Records within these files include correspondence, memoranda, contracts and agreements, dedications, easements, leases, licenses, and property surveys and blueprints. Items of note include documents related to the New York City Watershed properties, in addition to Long Island State Park Commission negotiations and agreements with Nassau County and the town of Oyster Bay.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

**Subseries W:** Meadowbrook State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 14 cubic feet; 14 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of the Meadowbrook State Parkway. The parkway was originally created as an access route to Jones Beach State Park, and it connects Southern State Parkway with Ocean Parkway on the South Shore of Long Island in Nassau County. The records in these files include items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:** Boxes 1-14

**Subseries X:** Montauk State Parks Case Files

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 4.5 cubic feet; 5 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of state parks in Montauk and the Town of East Hampton on the South Fork of Long Island's East End. Areas covered within this subseries include Hither Hills State Park, Montauk Point State Park, Camp Hero, and Montauk Downs. Additionally, there is information regarding Montauk Parkway, Napeague State Park, Gardiner's Point State Park, and the Montauk Beach Development Company. These files contain items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints. Items of note include maps of well locations related to Amagansett Water Company and materials pertaining to acquisition of Hither Hills to protect the freshwater supply, forests, and endangered species in the area. There are also

documents concerning appropriation of land owned by Montauk Syndicate, Inc. and letters regarding a Montauk real estate broker named Adolph Senner who attempted to run a land value inflation scheme. There are also records related to the potential establishment of Gardiner's Point State Park by the Commission, after it purchased the land for \$50 from the United States War Department in 1924. Gardiner's Point is located near Gardiner's Island and previously served as the location of Fort Tyler for the United States military.

**Arrangement:** Materials within box 1 of this subseries have been arranged to the folder level. Items in boxes 2-5 have been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries Y:** New York State Council of Parks

**Dates:** 1925-1985

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.75 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** The New York State Council of Parks was established in 1924 as a central advisory agency for all State park commissions throughout New York. This subseries is composed of legal documents and correspondence related to issues concerning individual bonds for many State parks and parkways within cities, villages, towns, and counties in the State. Areas include as Great Neck, Babylon, Hempstead, Nassau County, New York City, Oyster Bay, Plainview, and Westchester County. Parks covered in these files include Kings Point Park, Allegany State Park, Finger Lakes State Park, Niagara Frontier State Park, Genesee State Park, Palisades Interstate Park, and Taconic State Park. These records also comprise additional items like memoranda, appraisals, annual reports, monthly reports, and grant applications.

**Arrangement:** Case files within this subseries are arranged alphabetically by geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries Z:** Northern State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1921- 1975

**Physical Description (Extent):** 20 cubic feet; 20 cubic feet

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition of property by purchase or appropriation by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Northern State Parkway. The parkway runs along the northern portion of Long Island. It begins at the Queens-Nassau County border and continues east to traverse Nassau and Suffolk Counties to the Town of Smithtown. The records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, land appraisals, contracts, agreements, property titles, abstracts of title, inspection reports, purchase vouchers, tax bills, property descriptions, and property surveys and blueprints. Items of note include Knocklong v. State court case records, agreements with the Boys Scouts of America, Long Island Lighting Company easements, and information regarding contributions of August Heckscher to the Northern State Parkway fund.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, location, or subject.

**Container List:**

**Subseries AA:** Ocean Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1928-2002, bulk 1928-1940

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Ocean Parkway. The parkway runs through Nassau and Suffolk Counties on the outer barrier beach island off Long Island's South Shore and serves as an access road to Jones Beach State Park. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, agreements, maps, land surveys and blueprints. Items of note are blueprints and plans to extend Ocean Parkway to Smith's Point (along the East End of Long Island) by way of condemnation of property on Fire Island, plus lists of Fire Island property owners and form letters containing an explanation of the decision to abandon the project. These records also address erosion issues extending from Fire Island to Jones Beach Inlet and contain comments made by Robert Moses on the subjects of erosion and possible extension of the parkway to Smith's Point. This subseries contains case files only for property owners with surnames beginning with A-H.



**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

**Subseries BB:** Orient State Park Case Files

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Orient State Park. The park is located in the Town of Southold on the North Fork of Long Island's East End. The records in these files include items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

**Subseries CC:** Sagtikos State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1926-1990

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.25 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Sagtikos State Parkway. The parkway is located in Suffolk County and runs north-south between the hamlet of West Islip (on the South Shore) to the Town of Smithtown (on the North Shore), where it then becomes the Sunken Meadow State Parkway. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, appraisals, contracts and agreements, property titles, abstracts of title, inspection reports, purchase vouchers, tax bills, property descriptions, and property surveys and blueprints. Items of note are records related to Pilgrim State Hospital and proposals to acquire land from Robert David Lion Gardiner and the Gardiner family.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

**Subseries DD:** Southern State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 67 cubic feet; 67 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Southern State Parkway. The parkway was originally created as an access route to Jones Beach State Park. It begins at the Queens-Nassau County border and runs through both Nassau and Suffolk Counties to the Town of Islip, where it becomes the Heckscher State Parkway. The records in these files include items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

**Subseries EE:** Sunken Meadow State Park Case Files

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 4 cubic feet; 4 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Sunken Meadow State Park. The park, also known as Governor Alfred E. Smith State Park, is located in the Town of Smithtown on the North Shore of Suffolk County. The records in these files include items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

**Subseries FF:** Sunken Meadow State Parkway

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 3.5 cubic feet; 4 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Sunken Meadow State Parkway. The parkway is located in the Town of Smithtown in Suffolk County. The records in these files include items such as correspondence, memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

**Subseries GG:** Valley Stream State Park Case Files

**Dates:** 1928-1951

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Valley Stream State Park. The park is located in the Town of Hempstead in Nassau County on land originally part of what encompassed the New York City watershed properties on Long Island. These records include correspondence, memoranda, deeds, mortgages, property appraisals, contracts, agreements, land titles, abstracts of title, land inspection reports, purchase vouchers, property surveys and blueprints, tax forms, property descriptions, and tax bills. Items of note include documents signed by Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Depression-era correspondence regarding appropriation of property and the Emergency Unemployment Relief Bureau, and examples of how land negotiations were conducted with a prosperous company (Fairchild Publishing) as opposed to destitute individuals.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

**Subseries HH:** Wantagh State Parkway Case Files

**Dates:** 1929-2007, bulk 1929-1978

**Physical Description (Extent):** 3 cubic feet; 3 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Wantagh State Parkway. The parkway was created as an access route to Jones Beach State Park on land that was originally part of the New York City watershed properties on Long Island. It connects the Northern and Southern State Parkways with Ocean Parkway and Jones Beach State Park on the South Shore of Nassau County. These records include correspondence, interoffice memoranda, deeds, mortgages, land appraisals, contracts, agreements, property titles, abstracts of title, inspection reports, purchase vouchers, tax bills, property descriptions, and property surveys and blueprints. Items of note include documents about Wantagh State Park and various Town of Hempstead easements.

**Arrangement:** Case files are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

**Subseries II:** Wildwood State Park Case Files

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of individual case files documenting the acquisition and appropriation of land by New York State and the Long Island State Park Commission for the creation of Wildwood State Park. The park is located in the Town of Riverhead on the North Fork of Suffolk County. The records in these files include items such as correspondence, interoffice memoranda, deeds, contracts, agreements, appraisals, land titles and abstracts, inspection reports, invoices, and property surveys and blueprints

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

## **SERIES III: Long Island State Park Commission Engineering Department Records**

**Dates:** 1922-1984

**Physical Description (Extent):** 59.25 cubic feet; 55 boxes (including 48 record boxes and 7 10x15x24" transfile boxes)

**Scope and Content Note:** This series documents the civil engineering (design and construction) of public works projects undertaken by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. Since all three shared a headquarters building, records from the Commission and Authorities are often intermingled within the file units of this series. The files also sometimes contain records created later by the Commission's successor agencies, New York State Parks and Recreation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The Engineering Department was responsible for planning, construction, maintenance, and improvement of the Long Island region's State park and parkway systems. To meet these responsibilities, engineers performed a variety of functions including (but not limited to) planning and site analysis, site development, land surveying, structural design, landscape design, environmental engineering, architectural drawing and determination of building specifications, and repair, renovation, and rehabilitation of various public recreational facilities and infrastructure.

Types of materials found within this series include maps, property surveys, blueprints, architectural drawings, cost estimates, building specifications, contracts, agreements, reports, plans, easements, preliminary studies, invoices, and equipment advertisement and maintenance brochures. Materials cover a wide range of topics concerning engineering-related tasks associated with outdoor public recreational facilities (such as parks, beaches, and playgrounds) and mass transportation projects (parkways, park access drives, and bridges) throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island. Due to the involvement of Moses with many public entities, some records in this series also pertain to parks, parkways, and related projects in the environs of New York City and other areas of New York State.

Within this series are land records **Indexes** compiled by the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority. Many are labeled as Real Property Historic Land Acquisition Information Drive files and hold information about land acquisition for individual parkways. There is also a right-of-way easement index for Southern State Parkway.

**Easements** consists of right-of-way easements granted to the Long Island State Park Commission for park and parkway purposes. These files also contain information regarding private entrances, entrance eliminations, and work permits.

Most prominent in this series are **Engineering Project Files**, which generally provide extensive information on planning, design, construction, maintenance, and improvement for specific ventures related to parkways or park facilities in the Long Island region. These records date from approximately 1930 to 1980. Many files contain contracts, while some relate to proposed projects never completed. They cover an expansive number and variety of projects and pertain to most state parks and parkways in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, in addition to projects in other parts of the state.

The **Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve Files** consist of records related to development of the former Marshall Field Estate, located in the Town of Huntington, into a State park. There are also materials pertaining to a proposed bridge route to Connecticut from the area in the 1970s.

The **Geodetic Survey** files contain copies of United States National Geodetic Survey reports that contain topographic and hydrographic surveys and data reports for Long Island from the 1940s to 1970s.

**Jones Beach State Park Files** contain Jones Beach State Parkway Authority engineering reports dating from 1933 to 1935 that relate to early construction activities at or near Jones Beach State Park. Other records found here include later plans for improvements and updates to the park during the 1950s and 1960s.

The **Maps and Architectural Drawings** subseries is primarily composed of oversized architectural drawings detailing construction specifications for many State park and parkway structures and fixtures throughout the Long Island region during the years 1925-1973.

**Map Ledgers** are oversized bound collections of engineering blueprints, maps, and architectural drawings created by Long Island State Park Commission engineers for construction, improvement, and extension projects for parkways and bridges. These maps cover areas on Long Island, plus portions of the City of New York.

**Traffic and Tolls** files consist of information and data about public usage of and toll collection on State parkways in the Long Island region between about 1960 and 1980.

The **Water, Heat, and Electric Systems** files provide information about wells, reservoirs, irrigation, heating, and electrical systems predominantly for State park golf courses in the Long Island region. Most files date from 1950 to 1980.

**Arrangement:** This series consists of ten subseries. Items have been processed to the folder level unless otherwise specified. Engineering map ledgers are currently housed at Long Island State Parks Regional Headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park.

### **Subseries A:** Indexes

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 3 cubic feet; 3 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of land records indexes for the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority. Box 1 contains a card index arranged numerically by map. Information listed on cards includes park funds, proposal numbers, map numbers, surnames, addresses, parcel numbers, and vested dates of acquired properties. Boxes 2 and 3 include indexes labeled as Real Property Historic Land Acquisition Information Drive files. Box 2 holds indexes for land acquisition by the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority for parkway purposes, plus an acquisition by proposal number index, *Heckscher State Parkway Land Acquisition Index*, *Schematic Survey Drawings Alphabetical by Park Index*, and others. Box 3 contains indexes documenting land acquisition by the Long Island State Parkway Commission for parkway purposes, including for Northern State Parkway during the 1930s, Southern State Parkway in the 1920s and 1930s, Heckscher Spur in the 1930s, Belmont Bypass around Belmont Lake and the Babylon Spur in the 1930s, and proposal numbers for Southern State Parkway right-of-way easements. Box 3 also contains a *Summary of Legal Files* from 1924-1934.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries B:** Easements

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 3 cubic feet; 3 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains right-of-way easements granted to the Long Island State Park Commission. Among areas with parkway-related easements included in these files are Wantagh State Parkway, Robert Moses Causeway, Southern State Parkway, Meadowbrook State Parkway, Northern State Parkway, Bethpage State Parkway, Loop Parkway, and Sagtikos Parkway. Records for park-related easements include Fire Island, Heckscher State Park, Captree State Park, Bethpage State Park, Hither Hills State Park, Orient State Park, Gilgo State Park, Jones Beach State Park, and Meadow Island. There are also records pertaining to entrance eliminations, private entrances, and work permits.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries C:** Project Files

**Dates:** circa 1930-1980

**Physical Description (Extent):** 21 cubic feet; 21 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of records for building projects, improvement and rehabilitation projects, and maintenance and repairs undertaken by the Long Island State Park Commission on parkways, bridges, and within parks at various locations in the Long Island region. Project files include items such as project proposals contracts, contract bids, project bidding booklets, construction specifications, landscaping specifications, sign specifications, correspondence, land surveys, architectural drawings and plans, agreements, invoices, brochures, plumbing and electric diagrams, appraisals, estimates, working drawings, photographs, and memoranda. Projects include creation and maintenance of boardwalks, toll booths, park restaurants, swimming pools, administration buildings, bathhouses, beach shops, and police barracks. These files also contain project files lacking contracts, plus information regarding proposed projects. There is also landscaping information about topsoil, mulch, grass, plants, turf, and seed. Locations represented include Sunken Meadow State Park, Wildwood State Park, Robert Moses State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, Heckscher State Park, Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park, Caumsett State Park, Montauk Point State Park, Bethpage State Park, Wildwood State Park, Massapequa State Park, Valley Stream State Park, Hither Hills State Park, Gardiner's Island, Indian Island Park in Riverhead, Belmont Lake State Park, Captree State Park, Orient Beach, and Jones Beach Marine Theater.



**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

**Subseries D:** Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve Files

**Dates:** 1922-1970

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.5 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** The Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve was acquired by New York State in 1961 from Ruth Field (widow of Marshall Field III) and includes 1,750 acres on Lloyd Neck on Long Island's North Shore in Suffolk County. Box 1 of this subseries contains items such as home instruction manuals, home maintenance brochures, utility plans, and residential reports for the Marshall Field Estate. Box 2 contains maps, correspondence, handwritten notes, news clippings, reports, brochures, activity advertisements, garden surveys and reports, and pamphlets dating from the 1960s and 1970s about farmland preservation, ecology, wildlife sanctuaries, golf courses, parking facilities, landscape management, camping, land development, and general development plans. These records also contain materials concerning a proposed bridge route to Connecticut from the area.

**Arrangement:** The items within box 1 of this subseries have been arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location. Items within box 2 have been arranged at the box level.

**Container List:**

**Subseries E:** Geodetic Survey

**Dates:** 1941-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1.25 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of copies of United States National Geodetic Survey reports compiled by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey federal agency. These topographic and hydrographic surveys and data reports use specific points across Long Island to study changes in the land due to geologic factors. They differ from traditional land surveys in that they incorporate the curvature of the earth to determine latitude, longitude, elevation, and shorelines for a greater degree of

accuracy in measurement. These files contain survey reports, plus indexes, plane coordinates, and geographic positions.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged numerically by published survey number, with the exception of unnumbered surveys and miscellaneous items, which are arranged chronologically.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries F:** Jones Beach State Park Files

**Dates:** 1933-1968, bulk 1933-1935

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2.25 cubic feet; 3 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of engineering reports dating from 1933 to 1935 that relate to early construction activities at or near Jones Beach State Park. Originally contained in a wooden box labeled *Jones Beach State Parkway Authority: Report of the Engineer*, these files contain final estimates, contracts, and agreements for design and construction. They include information on things like hydraulic fill, grade separation, and beach grass planting. There are also plans for construction of the Meadowbrook Causeway, Jones Beach Causeway, and Loop Causeway. Additional records consist of later plans for improvements and updates to Jones Beach State Park during the 1950s and 1960s. The original container of these files is catalogued as an object within the subseries.

**Arrangement:** Early records found within this subseries are arranged numerically by contract number. All other records are arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries G:** Maps and Architectural Drawings

**Dates:** 1925-1973

**Physical Description (Extent):** 10.25 cubic feet; 11 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** While originally stored as map files at Long Island State Parks Regional Headquarters, this subseries is primarily composed of original oversized architectural drawings containing construction specifications for State park and parkway structures and fixtures throughout the Long Island region. Each drawing was originally

housed in an envelope sleeve with notations listing drawing title, creation date, and item number. Sleeves found without drawings are 15A53-6, 34A52-100, 41A1-1. Items of note in this subseries include a color-coded drawing (25A54-101) of the Hillside Park Police headquarters building. Some drawings also include symbol designations and their meanings. Parks and parkways represented within these records include Belmont Lake State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Montauk Point State Park, Sagtikos State Parkway, Alley Pond Park, Grand Central Parkway, Hillside Park, Gilgo State Park, Captree State Park, Robert Moses State Park, Southern State Parkway, Bethpage State Park, Bayard Cutting Arboretum State Park, and Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged numerically by drawing number.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries H:** Map Ledgers

**Dates:** 1957-1984

**Physical Description (Extent):** 14 cubic feet; 7 10x15x24" boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of oversized bound collections of engineering blueprints, maps, and architectural drawings created by Long Island State Park Commission engineers for construction, improvement, and extension projects related to parkways and bridges across the Long Island region. Roadways and bridges represented in these ledgers include Meadowbrook State Parkway, Northern State Parkway, Southern State Parkway, Robert Moses Causeway, Sunrise Highway, Loop Parkway, Wantagh State Parkway, Henry Hudson Parkway, Heckscher State Parkway, Ocean Parkway, Sagtikos State Parkway, Grand Central Parkway, Long Island Expressway, Conduit Boulevard, and the Fire Island Inlet Bridge.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged at the item level and is currently housed at Long Island Parks Regional Headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries I:** Traffic and Tolls

**Dates:** circa 1960-1980

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries includes records created and maintained by the Long Island State Park Commission and the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority concerning traffic and toll collection on parkways in the Long Island region. Materials within these files include annual traffic counts, reports, correspondence, maps detailing traffic volume, vehicular use fee schedules, press releases, memoranda, and maps. Items of note include proposals for toll increases on the Southern State Parkway, plus information about the final termination of the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority and the elimination of off-season tolls on many Long Island parkways.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries J: Water, Heat, and Electric Systems**

**Dates:** circa 1950-1983

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains information regarding wells, reservoirs, irrigation, heating, and electrical systems at Jones Beach State Park, Hither Hills State Park, Sunken Meadow State Park, Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve, Wildwood State Park, Bethpage State Park, and Fire Island. Many of these records relate to golf courses and include diagrams and architectural drawings, correspondence, engineering specifications, brochures, equipment installation details and drawings, meter readings, maps, blueprints, and photographs.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

## **SERIES IV: Long Island State Park Commission Financial Records**

**Dates:** circa 1924-1988

**Physical Description (Extent):** 175.25 cubic feet; 441 ledgers, 1 flat file, and 64 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This series is comprised of fourteen subseries that document the financial administration and history of the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones

Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority over the course of their existence. Some records found within this series were also created by the Commission's successor agencies, New York State Parks and Recreation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Financial records within this series were created, received, and maintained by the Commission and Authorities mainly for the purpose of administering and accounting for monetary funds for the development, creation, improvement, and general operation of State public recreational facilities (such as parks and beaches) and State infrastructure projects (such as parkways and bridges) in the Long Island region. The records represent a wide variety of finance-based functions such as bookkeeping, budgeting, purchasing, billing, administration of payroll, financial reporting, and auditing. While this series includes numerous budgets, finance reports, service contracts, invoices, vouchers, financial statements, bank records, and information regarding major sources and uses of project and operating funds, a large portion of the records are contained within a copious number of accounting ledgers. Types of ledgers include operating records and daily summaries, cash books, voucher registers, general ledgers, and appropriation expenditure ledgers. Financial ledgers are currently housed at Long Island Parks Regional Headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park in Babylon, New York. They relate to all parks and parkways established in the Long Island region, from the origin of the Long Island State Park Commission in the 1920s to the dissolution of the Authorities and incorporation of the Commission into New York State Parks and Recreation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in the late 1970s.

**Federal Aid Unemployment Relief Fund** files consist of financial documentation that was used by the Commission to apply for support from the Federal Aid Unemployment Relief Fund during the Depression era from 1934 to 1936.

The **Ledgers** subseries consists of bound volumes of daily and annual financial accountings for the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, Bethpage Park Authority, and the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission for most State parks and parkways in the Long Island region. The majority of items date from between 1930 and 1978.

**Contracts and Agreements** files contain contracts, proposals, bids, and agreements for services with the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. Materials predominately date from 1924 to 1978.

The **Budgets** subseries contains budget reports and documentation for State parks in the Long Island region primarily during the 1970s. Budgets and related information for the purposes of appropriation, park programming, and park and parkway projects can be found here.

The **Checks** subseries consists of cancelled checks for various accounts at the Bank of Babylon containing Long Island State Park Commission funds between about 1950 and 1980.

**Extension Fund** records are documents detailing financial information related to the Capital Construction, Northern State Extension, and Bethpage State Parkway Extension monetary accounts drawn on to fund expansion of the Bethpage State Parkway and the Northern State Parkway in the early 1960s.

The **Financial Statements** subseries is composed of Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority expense statements from the 1950s-1970s. Items include documentation of operating and construction costs, plus Jones Beach Theater box office records.

**Jones Beach State Park** files contain financial documentation for concession services at Jones Beach from 1957 to 1979.

**Jones Beach State Parkway Authority** files consist of financial records for the Jones Beach Marine Theater and parkway improvements from 1932 to 1977.

**Jones Beach State Parkway Authority Operating and General Fund** files contain banking information for the Authority's operating and general monetary funds from 1971 to 1973.

Within the **Reports** subseries are various types of financial reports, summaries, and related data generated by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority between about 1940 and 1975. Reports related to operating expenses, recapitulations, budgets, and toll collection can be found here.

The **Tax Forms** subseries is composed of federal and state tax documentation for the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. Some payroll files contain personnel tax withholding information and access may be restricted.

**Vouchers and Invoices** include bills for goods and services, receipts, purchasing orders, and like items produced or received by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority predominately during the 1970s.

**Miscellaneous** records are comprised of an assortment of financial records created and maintained by the Long Island State Park Commission from around 1940 to 1970. Within these files is budget data collected by engineer A.E. Howland, as well as invoices directed to the wife of Commission President Robert Moses.

**Arrangement:**

This series consists of fourteen subseries. Items have been processed to the folder level unless otherwise specified. Financial ledgers are currently housed at Long Island State Parks Regional Headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park.

**Subseries A:** Federal Aid Unemployment Relief Fund

**Dates:** 1934-1936

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains Depression-era documents that were assembled by the Long Island State Park Commission for application to the federal government's Federal Aid Unemployment Relief Fund. Included within these files are items such as financial statements, invoices and itemized receipts.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged numerically by abstract number.

**Container List:**

**Subseries B:** Ledgers

**Dates:** 1930-1988, bulk 1930-1978

**Physical Description (Extent):** 112 cubic feet; 441 ledgers

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of accounting ledgers containing financial records for the Long Island State Park Commission, Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority throughout their durations. Ledgers include cash registers, voucher registers,

operating account books, general account books, registers for treadle-controlled toll checking systems, appropriation accounting books, light meters readings, general improvements account books, payroll ledgers, engineering expenses, maintenance and operations accounting books, and revenue ledgers. Financial information for all Long Island State parks and parkways overseen by the Commission and Authorities during the Moses era can be found here, including Northern State Parkway, Jones Beach State Park, Southern State Parkway, Loop Parkway, Wantagh State Parkway, Meadowbrook State Parkway, Captree State Parkway, Robert Moses Causeway, Heckscher State Park, and Robert Moses State Park.

**Arrangement:** Ledgers in this subseries have been arranged at the item level by entity (Commission or Authority) and then chronologically by date. They are currently housed at Long Island Parks Regional Headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park.

**Container List:**

**Subseries C: Contracts and Agreements**

**Dates:** circa 1924-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 16 cubic feet; 16 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority engineering contracts and agreements for services. These files contain items such as contract documents, proposals, and bids for construction work and maintenance of park vehicles such as striping trucks, dump trucks, and spreaders. Requests for proposals, bids, and contracts for supplies and various services including architectural design, aerial photography, mapping, materials, insurance, fuel, painting, and installation of plumbing, heating and electrical systems can also be found within these files.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Containers:**

**Subseries D: Budgets**

**Dates:** circa 1944-1978, bulk 1970s

**Physical Description (Extent):** 8 cubic feet; 8 record boxes



**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority budget reports and budgeting documentation for State parks in the Long Island region. Parks include Planting Field Arboretum, Caumsett State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Belmont Lake State Park, Connetquot State Park, Montauk Point State Park, and Hither Hills State Park. Budgets for purposes of appropriation, park programming, and park and parkway projects can be found here. These files also contain related materials such as financial summaries, recapitulations (multi-year summaries), program cost studies, projections, ledger sheets, financial worksheets, budget requests, budget comparisons, personnel reports, parkway police data, overtime records, revenue estimates, salary information, correspondence, maps, and memoranda. Items of note include civil service job descriptions for positions at Planting Fields Arboretum in the early 1970s, items relating to construction and operation of golf courses at Caumsett State Park, and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority budgets for capital construction programs. Some personnel-related records within this subseries may be restricted.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries E: Checks**

**Dates:** circa 1950-1980

**Physical Description (Extent):** 6 cubic feet; 6 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of canceled checks from the Long Island State Park Commission's Contractors Bid Checks Fund, Regional Park Fund No. 1, and Regional Park Fund No. 2 at the Bank of Babylon.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries F: Extension Fund Records**

**Dates:** 1962-1966

**Physical Description (Extent):** .25 cubic feet; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed of financial documentation for the acquisition and appropriation of property by the Long Island State Park Commission on behalf of New York State for the extension of the Bethpage State Parkway and the Northern State Parkway in Nassau County. Included within these files are items related to funding these projects, such as correspondence, memoranda regarding appropriated funds, purchase vouchers, land values, title information, and mortgage requests. Documentation related to the Capital Construction Fund, Northern State Extension Fund, and Bethpage State Parkway Extension Fund can be found here.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged by alphabetically by parkway.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries G:** Financial Statements

**Dates:** circa 1954-1976

**Physical Description (Extent):** 6 cubic feet; 6 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries predominantly contains financial expense statements for the Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority. Box 1 includes Commission receipts and reports for concessions, tolls, and payroll records. Box 2 consists of Jones Beach Theater records, including box office statements, analyses for individual shows, flyers, and show programs. Box 3 holds Long Island State Park Commission and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority financial statements and estimates of operating and construction expenses during the 1950s and 1960s.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries H:** Jones Beach State Park

**Dates:** 1957-1979

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries is composed primarily of financial documents related to concessions operations at Jones Beach State Park. Included within these files

are items such as correspondence, memoranda, contracts and legal agreements, and year-end financial statements.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged by business function and then chronologically by date.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries I:** Jones Beach State Parkway Authority

**Dates:** 1932-1977

**Physical Description (Extent):** 5 cubic feet; 5 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of financial records created by the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority for the Jones Beach Marine Theater and Long Island parkway improvements. Included within these files are items such as correspondence, memoranda, year-end financial reports, accounting reports, fund status reports, financial agreements, and newspaper clippings related to bond issues.

**Arrangement:** This subseries is arranged alphabetically by surname, corporate name, or geographical location.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries J:** Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, Operating and General Fund

**Dates:** 1971-1973

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains banking information regarding monetary deposits made to the operating and general funds of the Jones Beach State Parkway Authority. Files contain ledger sheets, deposit slips, deposit records and receipts, financial statements, audit forms, correspondence, vehicle accident reports, and itemized property damage costs.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

## **Subseries K: Reports**

**Dates:** circa 1940-1975

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 cubic feet; 2 record boxes and 1 flat file

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains various financial reports created by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. Annual reports, recapitulations, operating reports, monthly expense reports for maintenance of park vehicles, monthly gas and oil usage reports, purchase summaries, budget requests, expense reports for maintenance of park facilities, deferred maintenance and rehabilitation program reports for the Long Island region, purchase standards and recommendations, and summaries and data on traffic trends, revenue bonds, toll collection, attendance, personnel, and employee benefits can be found here. Also included are numerical lists used for purposes of accounting for lockers, buses, trucks, dressing rooms, and licenses for various park facilities. Parks covered by these records include Valley Stream State Park, Wildwood State Park, Belmont Lake State Park, Orient State Park, and Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. Reports also sometimes contain related correspondence, notes, drafts, worksheets, and accounting ledger sheets.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

## **Subseries L: Tax Forms**

**Dates:** circa 1940-1970

**Physical Description (Extent):** 2 record boxes; 2 cubic feet

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consist of federal and New York State withholding tax documents for the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, and Bethpage Park Authority. Items include W-2, W-3, W-4, and 1099 forms, payroll and tax withholding reports, vouchers, audit forms, employee federal and state withholding forms, records and receipts, and 1945-1946 records on military pay differential. Access to some items within this subseries may be restricted.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries M: Vouchers and Invoices**

**Dates:** circa 1924-1978, bulk 1970s

**Physical Description (Extent):** 14 cubic feet; 14 record boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains vouchers and invoices generated and received by the Long Island State Park Commission, Jones Beach State Parkway Authority, Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission, and Bethpage Park Authority. Information regarding purchasing and purchase orders, payroll and personnel, equipment service and maintenance, theater production costs, electricity use, construction costs, insurance, and travel expenses can be found in these records. Items of note are Jones Beach State Park Theater expenditure lists for the 1977 production of "Finian's Rainbow," (including paint, furniture, displays, advertising, uniforms, public relations, and setup and removal of props) and Jones Beach State Parkway Authority and Bethpage Park Authority accounting statements. Voucher files often contain related invoices and purchase orders for things such as office supplies, equipment and materials, construction, and services and maintenance. There are also toll ticket books and information regarding refunds to motorists. Access to personnel related records within this subseries may be restricted.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

### **Subseries N: Miscellaneous**

**Dates:** circa 1941-1973

**Physical Description (Extent):** 1 cubic foot; 1 record box

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries consists of miscellaneous financial records created and maintained by the Long Island State Park Commission. Within these files are items such as correspondence, payroll records, telephone use invoices directed to Mrs. Robert Moses, accountings of funds received from various local townships, budget data compiled by A.E. Howland, and colored maps of western Long Island.

**Arrangement:** This subseries has been arranged to the box level.

**Container List:**

## **SERIES V: Long Island State Park Commission Photographs**

**Dates:** 1925-1995

**Physical Description (Extent):** 33 cubic feet; 4 flat files and 26 boxes (including 22 record boxes, 3 12x15x5" print boxes, 1 12x15x2.5" flat storage box)

**Scope and Content Note:** This series is composed of color and black and white, photographs, photographic negatives, slides, and digital images on compact discs portraying various aspects of Long Island State parks and parkways. The images were created primarily for promotional, documentary, or reference purposes by the Long Island State Park Commission and depict a multitude of park activities, public recreation, sponsored programs, sporting events, natural damage, documentation for required maintenance and repairs to State park and parkway property (due to fire, water, storm damage, and vandalism) and construction of bridges, parks, and parkways.

Images of parks and parkways in this series include Belmont Lake State Park, Sunken Meadow State Park, Southern State Parkway, Caleb Smith State Park, Hempstead Lake State Park, Bethpage State Park, Caumsett State Park, Captree State Park, Jones Beach State Park, Wildwood State Park, Gilgo State Park, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Valley Stream State Park, Connetquot River State Park, Montauk Downs State Park, Hither Hills State Park, Meadowbrook State Parkway, Orient Point State Park, Ocean Parkway, and Planting Fields Arboretum. Within this series are also photographs of prominent individuals captured in both candid and posed positions. Public figures depicted include Robert Moses, Fiorello La Guardia, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Alfred E. Smith, and Guy Lombardo.

While most photographs found within in this series are either 4x6" or 8x10", there are also a number of oversized photographs, bound albums, and photographs of numerous smaller sizes. Known photographers include Eric Hedlund, F. Hyland, Ethel Urbahn, Kreiniky, and Meade C. Dobson. The bulk of photographs are undated and are prints of Long Island Regional Archive (LIRA) negatives with LIRA accession numbers recorded on the back side of the images.

**Arrangement:** This series is arranged at the folder level, with the exception of box numbers 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 22 (which are arranged at the box level).

**Container List:**

## **SERIES VI: Long Island State Park Commission Audiovisual Materials**

**Dates:** 1938-2000, bulk circa 1940s

**Physical Description (Extent):** 11 cubic feet; 69 reels and 17 videocassettes in 11 boxes (including 10 record boxes and 1 videocassette box)

**Scope and Content Note:** This series is composed of films created for promotional or documentary purposes by the Long Island State Park Commission primarily during the time period that Robert Moses served as Commission President. Items consist of videocassette (VHS and Betamax) tapes and 16 mm film reels in both color and black and white. Although reels measure between 3 inches and 10.5 inches, most are either 3.5 or 7 inches. A number of the films are undated and VHS tapes dated prior to 1980 are predominantly copies of the 16 mm film reels.

Within this series are films and videos of patrons enjoying park recreational activities and progress on construction projects at many State park and parkway locations throughout Long Island and the City of New York. Documented locations include Jones Beach State Park, Robert Moses State Park, Bethpage State Park, Whitestone Bridge, Sunken Meadow State Park, Belmont Lake State Park, the Flushing Meadows site of the New York World's Fair in Queens County, Wantagh State Parkway, Sunrise Highway, Meadowbrook State Parkway, Northern State Parkway, Orient Point State Park, Wildwood State Park, Caumsett State Park, Connetquot State Park, and Fire Island State Park. There is also aerial film footage of various locations and home movies of Robert Moses and his family.

Other prominent individuals featured include Guy Lombardo, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II, Joe Franklin, Fiorello La Guardia, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Herbert H. Lehman. Items of note include an interview with Guy Lombardo about the Jones Beach Marine Theater show "Hit the Deck," footage of the construction of Jones Beach Marine Theater, footage of the New York World's Fair and the Vatican Treasure's exhibit, and pool shows and musical productions at Jones Beach State Park (including *The Sound of Music* and *Mardi Gras*). Additionally, there is also a copy of the PBS documentary "The World That Moses Built." Known creators of these films include Ellison C. Driscoll, Burton Benjamin, William Deeke, Peter Roberts, Eugene Castle, Leslie M. Roush, William O. Steiner, Justin Herman, Hyman Sobiloff, and Castle Films.

**Arrangement:** This series has been arranged to the item level.

**Container List:**