

## Section 2.—Parks and Other Areas under the Federal District Commission

The Federal District Commission, known as the Ottawa Improvement Commission previous to 1927, was established by Parliament in 1899 for the beautification and improvement of the city of Ottawa, Canada's Capital, by the construction and maintenance of parks and driveways.

In 1927 the scope of the Commission's operations was widened to include the adjoining districts, and its membership increased from eight to ten, including a representative of the city of Hull, Que. Subsequently the Commission was given the additional responsibility of maintaining the grounds of all Federal Government Buildings in Ottawa and vicinity. By amendment to the Federal District Commission Act, 1946, the membership of the Commission was increased to nineteen, thus providing for a more national character in its composition by the provision for inclusion therein of a representative from each of the provinces of Canada.

Departments of the Federal Government from time to time ask the Commission to carry out improvements to the grounds of newly constructed Government buildings on the basis of full reimbursement for the actual costs entailed. The Commission has the trained personnel and the special equipment required for such work.

Funds for the purposes of the Commission are provided by statutory grants and votes of Parliament.

In the cities of Ottawa and Hull and immediate environs, an area comprising 1,878 acres is administered by the Commission and eighteen parks have been developed. In addition, the large and beautiful area known as Gatineau Park, described under a separate heading below, has been established in the Laurentian Hills. Twenty-two miles of landscaped driveways have been built and are being maintained.

**Gatineau Park.**—Gatineau Park, situated in the Province of Quebec about eight air miles from the Federal Capital, is the only National Park administered and controlled by the Federal District Commission. It comprises at present about 24,000 acres of wooded hills, valleys, lakes and streams located in the southerly fringe of the Laurentians, the oldest mountains in Canada, and is being preserved in its natural state for the enjoyment of the public.

The Park is a game sanctuary. Deer, bear, fox, beaver, mink, raccoon and other fur-bearing animals are quite numerous. Well-located trails, picnic spots and camping sites have been provided for the pleasure and healthful recreation of the public. Gatineau Park furnishes excellent opportunities for the enjoyment of skiing and is the principal centre in the Ottawa district for this popular winter sport.

Further development of this area is planned which will include an addition of 26,000 acres, overnight cabins, administration buildings, shelters, refectories, bath-houses and other essential structures.

The Park is administered by a Superintendent and a force of five rangers who act also as game wardens, police constables and fire guards.

**The National Capital Plan.\***—The Master Plan to guide the long-range development of Ottawa and the 900-square mile National Capital District and to create a Capital in keeping with Canada's achievements and status as a

\* Prepared by the Federal District Commission, Ottawa.