

Polson bays have become favourite locations for Winnipeg house hunters.

There were also indications of new thinking in other aspects of street design. The board was enlisted to soften the look of bridge approaches, underpasses and community centre sites by the use of perennial plantings, flower beds and shrubs. There was growing support for the idea that aesthetic concerns of this kind were not frills but essential components of the city's quality of life. The board's construction division, which did all of the boulevard sodding, tree planting, flower bed planting and maintenance, changed its name in 1959 to the Landscaping Division, a more modern and descriptive title for its work.

The 1950 Flood Creates Havoc in City Parks

Nature reminded all Winnipeggers of its power in 1950. The effects of a large and late spring run-off combined with heavy spring rains caused the Red River to overflow its banks, inundating large parts of Greater Winnipeg and the whole of the Red River valley to the south. Parks and Recreation Board workers did no spring planting or maintenance that year. All of the board's available employees were diverted to flood work and instead of constructing new boulevards and flower beds, the board's work

crews built dikes and hauled sandbags. At the end of May, the water finally receded and left behind silt, mud and drowned vegetation.

The parks fronting on the Red River were the worst hit. St. John's and Kildonan had extensive damage. At Kildonan, the pavilion had been sitting in five feet of water for over a month. The riverbank was eroded, fences and the bandstand were swept away completely and silt, up to two feet deep, had been deposited on roadways. Many plantings of perennials would have to be replaced. Both Kildonan and Windsor Park golf courses had been under water and required major clean-up and turf re-seeding.



Severe riverbank erosion and sand bag debris at the St. John's Park extension following the 1950 flood. WPRD.



Flood waters at Assiniboine Park, 1950. WPRD