“Cultural Performances in Controlled Landscapes: An Examination of Turn of the Century Urban Parks in Ottawa”

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Outline

- Parks as Urban Landscapes: Theoretical Basis

- Ottawa: The National Capital Context

- The Historical Development of Parks: Outlined by Galen Cranz

- Case Studies Analysis (Minto, Strathcona and Central Parks)
“Landscape, we suggest, doesn't merely signify or symbolize power relations; it is an instrument of cultural power... Landscape as a cultural medium thus has a double role with respect to something like ideology: it naturalizes a cultural and social construction, representing an artificial world as if it were simply given and inevitable, and it also makes that representation operational by interpolating its beholder in some more or less determinate relation to its givenness as sight and site.” (W J T Mitchell, *Landscape and Power*, 1-2.)
Embedding Gender, Race and Class in Public, Urban and Natural Space
Ottawa: Forming the Nation's Capital
Turn of the Century Ottawa

Elgin Street Looking South, c.1902

Rideau Canal Looking East, c.1902
The Ottawa Improvement Commission

Ottawa Rideau Canal Scenic Drive, 1920s

Plan for Washington DC Mall
Frederick Todd's Report to the OIC
Minto Park

Map Courtesy of Google, AerialCourtesy of Bing
Strathcona Park
Central Park
The Historical Development of Parks: Outlined by Galen Cranz

- The Pleasure Ground 1850-1900
- The Reform Park 1900-1930
- The Recreational Facility 1930-1965
- The Open Space System 1965-
Early Urban “Park” Spaces

The Boston Commons (established 1634): Space of Function
The Pleasure Ground/Garden
1850-1900

Bridge Near Canal, Central Park (Ottawa)

Boston Public Garden

Map of Central Park
The Reform Park 1900-1930

Winter Sports in Strathcona Park, 1920s

Men in Boston Commons, 1920s

Sandlot Baseball in Central Park, 1930s
Landscape and Nation in Ottawa

Pathways in Strathcona and Central Park, 2010
The Tourist Gaze and Local Use

The Use of Water By Locals in Strathcona Park, c. 1920s

The Use of Water In the Creation of the Picturesque in Central Park, c. 1910
The Creation and Recreation of Class in Early Urban Parks

Children at the Fountain of Strathcona Park c. 1910
The Transformation of Class Ideologies and Use in Parks

The Multi-Class Reform Park of Strathcona, late 1920s

The Middle Class Pleasure Ground of Central Park, c. 1910
Gender and the Pleasure Ground

Women on a Picnic, c. 1900

Strathcona Park with Girls in Midground, c. 1905
Gender and the Reform Park

Boys at a Water Fountain, Strathcona Park, 1920s

Playground at Strathcona Park, 1920s
Connections Between Landscape and the Racialization of Canada

Ponds at Strathcona Park, 1920s

Patterson Creek at Central Park, c. 1910
Evolving Spaces

Decorative Flower Beds and Fountain at Strathcona Park, c. 1905

Strathcona Park Looking South, 2010
Evolving Spaces

Central Park Bridge Near Canal, c. 1910

Central Park Looking Towards Canal 2010
Evolving Spaces

Women's Monument in Minto Park, 2010