



## **Long Island Parkways Collection, 1931-1935.**

### **Special Collections Department/Long Island Studies Institute**

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Long Island Parkways Collection, 1931-1935.  
.25 c.f.

The Long Island Parkway System was devised and developed by the Long Island State Park Commission (LISPC), which was established in 1924. The LISPC was led by master builder Robert Moses, a commissioner of the organization from 1926 to 1963. Moses envisioned the creation of a system that was picturesque as well as effective in alleviating traffic on Long Island's local roads. To bring his plans to fruition he worked with some of the best designers of the time, including Clarence C. Coombs and Frederick Law Olmsted.

Although the construction of the system followed the LISPC's design guidelines, it also had influences from special authorities such as the Jones Beach State Park Authority and the State Department of Public Works. In addition, while it was developed in a number of stages from the late 1920s to the mid-1960s, the system features common characteristics such as bracketed-arm wood light posts and stone-faced arched bridges.

The Long Island Parkway System includes the Grand Central, Meadowbrook State, Northern State, Ocean, Southern State, Loop, Bethpage State, Heckscher, Sagtikos, Sunken Meadow, and Wantagh Parkways, and the Robert Moses Causeway.

Construction of the Grand Central Parkway, which was designed to help people from New York City travel more easily to Jones Beach, began in 1931 and was completed in 1936. (It was later widened in 1961.) Work on the Southern State Parkway began in 1925, and its first section opened to the public in 1927. Additions to this route were added in the year 1949, and its current condition was completed in 1962. Workers began building the Meadowbrook State Parkway in 1932. This route also included the branch to Point Lookout, known as Loop Parkway. The first section of the Meadowbrook was officially opened and ready for use in the fall of 1934. Northern State Parkway was created throughout the 1930s in a set of stages. It was worked on again in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and then finally finished in 1965. Ocean Parkway, which was constructed in the early 1930s, was designed to allow access to barrier beaches, including Jones Beach State Park.

The collection, which spans the years 1931-1935, is composed of photographs of the Grand Central, Southern State, Meadowbrook State, Northern State and Ocean Parkways. The collection also includes a picture of the general parkway development plan, aerial photographs of Long Island and photographs of unidentified parkways under construction.

## SUBJECTS

### Names:

Moses, Robert, 1888-1981.

Long Island State Park Commission.

Long Island Parkway System.

### Subjects:

Construction projects--New York (State)--Long Island.

Parkways--New York (State)--Long Island.

### Places:

Long Island--History

### Form and Genre Terms:

Photographs.

Long Island Parkways Collection, 1931-1935.  
.25 cubic.ft.

Box and Folder Listing

<u>Box/Folder #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-1	Picture of General Parkway Development Plan and aerial photographs of Long Island, 1931, 1933
1-2	Photographs of Grand Central Parkway; Construction began in 1931 & ended in 1961
1-3	Photographs of Southern State Parkway; Construction began in 1925 & ended in 1962
1-4	Photographs of Meadowbrook State Parkway, 1933-1935; Construction began in 1932 & first section opened in 1934
1-5	Photographs of Northern State Parkway, 1934; Construction began in the 1930s & ended in 1965
1-6	Photographs of Ocean Parkway, 1933; Construction throughout the early 1930s
1-7	Photographs of Miscellaneous/Unidentified Parkways; Construction throughout the 1900s
1-8	Report of the Long Island State Park Commission for the Year 1931