Emma Haeusel

10/7/15

Prof. Yolanda Padilla

Prof. Michael Goldberg

BCORE 107C

In the section Parks, Urban Planning and Planning Play, of Lawrence Culver’s *America’s Playground: Recreation and Race,* Culver focuses on the development of the Department of Playground and Recreation and the resistance of the developers in building parks and green spaces. When cities were first being developed, they planned for parks and green space- such as Central Park in New York City. Los Angeles wanted to advertise a certain type of lifestyle- one that didn't need parks, and one filled with the affluent white. Los Angeles did not see a need for parks- they believed the residents could find leisure activities by driving to them, and when they did develop parks like Griffith Park, they went unused and unappreciated for many years. When the city finally did build parks, their goal was to let the affluent members of society enjoy leisure “properly”- meaning they would be both mentally and physically fit so that they may be productive members of society. Once the Department of Playgrounds and Recreation was put into affect Los Angeles took the development of parks and the children that would play at those parks very seriously.