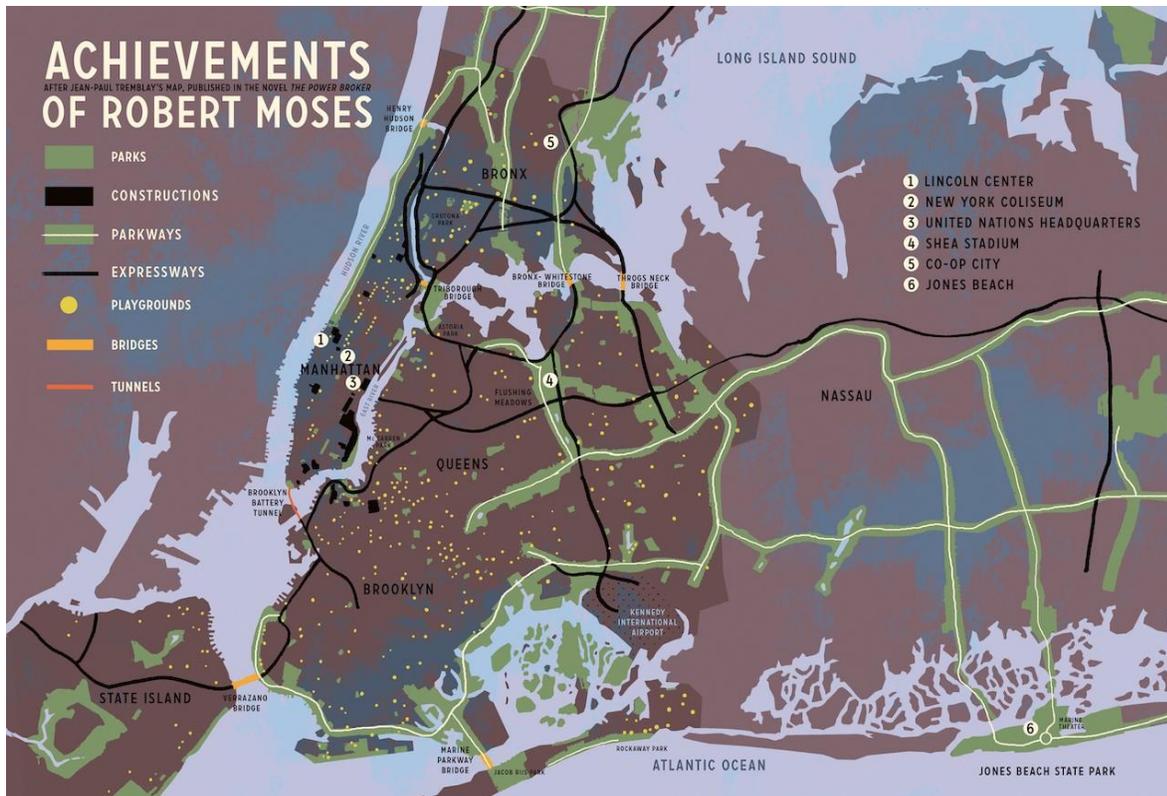


Robert Moses was an influential figure in the shaping of New York City during his time as Parks Commissioner from 1934 to 1960. He was the first commissioner to lead projects through a unified City Parks Department and so his work can be seen throughout all five boroughs of New York City. Moses is responsible for projects such as the Triborough Bridge (which connects Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens), the United Nations building in Midtown Manhattan, and the organization of two World's Fairs located at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. While these examples represent Moses' aspirations for an economically strong and efficiently planned New York, he was also a firm believer in the need for open space.

During his career, Moses acquired thousands of acres of remaining natural areas in the city and greatly increased the number of neighborhood playgrounds. With funding through New Deal programs such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA), his projects were also able to put tens of thousands of able-bodied Americans back to work during the Great Depression. Martin's Field, located in Flushing, was one of the many park projects Moses and the WPA completed in the year 1936. However, years later as conservationist movements sprung up throughout the country, the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground Conservancy strove to honor the previous purpose of the site as a burial ground and had the playground removed.

Once considered New York's Master Builder, Moses has since been criticized for his autocratic methods and disregard for the historical communities of New York. However, as further consideration is given to the expansion of public works under Robert Moses, his character can once again be understood within its historical context. For his time as Parks Commissioner, Moses can be viewed as a modern visionary, in tune with urban migration as people and business continued to move out of, and all about, New York.



From *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* by Robert A. Caro

	Home Relief (workers)	Work Relief (workers)	Program Cost
February	220,000	120,000	\$9 Million
March	200,000	140,000	\$10 Million
April	180,000	160,000	\$12.5 Million
May	160,000	180,000	\$15 Million
June	140,000	200,000	\$17.5 Million
July	120,000	220,000	\$20 Million

Data compiled from 'Memorandum on [projected] Expanded City Work Relief Program' dated 2/16/1935