



Brian Carney

15 Years in the Works, Summit Park Is Done at Last

Summit Park is finally almost finished, after over a decade of planning and negotiations. When Parks Superintendent George ^{Auers} came to Ann Arbor in 1963, discussion of the park to be built at East Summit and North Fifth was already underway. Peters' slaughterhouse and sausage plant and one part of Lansky's junkyard were located in the middle of a residential neighborhood occupied for generations mainly by black people, and neighborhood groups wanted them out. These objectionable uses seemed both cause and proof of the area's undesirability. In 1967 the city

bought the Peters sausage plant on North Fifth between Depot and Summit, and in 1975 it finally acquired Lansky's junkyard at Summit and Fourth, after arranging to relocate it on property the city had purchased next to Lansky's principal yard on North Main.

Lansky's actually moved last year, and the \$275,000 park (financed mainly by 1966 Park Bond and state Recreation Bond funds) was essentially finished this fall.

Local landscape planners Beckett-Jackson-Raeder designed it, consulting with the North Central Property Owners Association, most re-

cent of the neighborhood groups involved. It includes a jogging track, picnic pavilion, basketball courts, and a fountain for summertime splashing.

The playground equipment has made an instant hit, attracting kids and parents from outside the immediate neighborhood. The redwood towers, bridge, poles, ladders, tire swing, monkey bars, and slides are from Oregon's Timberforms playground equipment firm, and they cost altogether \$15,000. Focal point of the playground is the \$3000 custom-designed "beehive climber," a brick dome penetrated by wide vertical and horizontal pipes for hiding in and crawling through, with a ladder in the vertical pipe and protruding bricks on the dome wall to make climbing easier.

On a recent sunny day we saw kids perched on the posts showing off, bouncing up and down on the swinging rope bridge, playing hurricanes and storms at sea, seeing who could get dizziest on the tire swing, and running and playing tag, using the beehive as a hiding place. When cold weather comes, the track will become an ice rink and the enclosed part of the pavilion turns into a warming house.

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