

Guy C. Larcom, Jr. City Administrator

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Sheldon Sproull, Supt. of Parks and
Recreation

Hollywood Park Development

During a recent discussion concerning Hollywood Park you mentioned the surge of public interest in natural beauty.

Conferences have been called to discuss this aspect of our American scene, from the national level through the state level to the local level, or in the reverse direction as the case may be.

You will find almost unanimous approval of the concept of natural beauty, and among park people the approval will be 100%. This is our trade and we work at it every day.

The concept has its variations however. Areas of so called natural beauty can and do include "nature areas", but are not limited to nature areas. This becomes difficult to define and differentiate, since we can have all degrees from the completely untouched to the very formally maintained. I won't go into specifics here, and merely wish to point out that Mother Nature can display considerable beauty without having poison ivy entwined in her hair and a sprig of ragweed clenched between her teeth.

True nature areas have a place. The places should and will be chosen and preserved. Hollywood Park is not a logical choice.

To comment on questions raised by the report of the Committee on National Resources.

Our proposed purpose is for green space, shade, quiet and a few benches. This makes not only a pleasant place to see, but also a pleasant place to be.

We do not recall any petition of several hundred names when the dying trees were cut. The cutting was done in January 1964. No comment whatever was received until March 1964.

The Park Department has not instituted any campaign to create differences of opinion. Our recommendations can be considered on their own merits. During planning we did consult with families abutting the area and their concern has since been expressed in form of a petition.

A school owned parcel of the woods may be left as it is, but our plan does not call for any of the city area to be left in a natural condition. The plan uses the term "naturalistic", meaning a controlled situation rather than an untended situation. The Committee overlay is not consistent with this concept.

Leaving the area untouched will mean continuing an extremely unusual situation for years to come, and will be an injustice to nearby home owners which will not be counterbalanced by general city benefit. I recommend that the Park Department be permitted to resume development as planned.

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