



CITY OF ATLANTA

DEPARTMENT of PARKS

Office of General Manager

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

July 19, 1967



JACK C. DELIUS
GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Charles L. Davis
Comptroller
City of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Charles:

Thank you for your letter of July 13, 1967, advising us that the Finance Committee on July 12, 1967, had discussed the problem of financing additional parks and improvements; and, more particularly reference to the additional State Grant funds by which the Finance Committee desires to make some portion available to the Parks Department for additional park sites, etc.

I have called together all of our staff members concerned with park development and acquisition to very carefully review priorities on park projects. At the same time, we considered the City's commitment towards the purchase of four urban renewal park sites located in various areas of the City.

After we completed the attached priority list, we reviewed it with Chairman Leftwich on July 17, 1967. Mr. Leftwich has given his endorsement to the attached proposed disbursement of funds. This entire priority list is based on the fact that we would receive some \$350,000 from the State grant.

As an explanation to you and by copy of this letter an explanation to the other members of the Aldermanic Parks Committee, I would like to explain to you just how we arrived at priorities. First of all, Peyton Road is the only one of the fourteen parks purchased since 1964 which we have not allocated any funds for the development of or have not actually broken ground. In the case of Daniel Stanton Park Site (People's Town), we have under construction at the present time a recreation building and a modest amount of money has been set aside for storm drainage in the park. However,

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this will be a case where we will have a completed recreation building and yet the land immediately surrounding it, etc., will not be usable. We built the park "backward" only because of an existing sub-station structure which could be remodeled into a gymnasium and we felt that having indoor facilities for year-round use took priority over basic site development of the park. In the case of Harper Park, we would like very much to do the second stage and this would virtually finish this facility except for a large project such as possibly a recreation building. In the case of Gun Club, we are not deviating from our announced and formal policy of building only neighborhood size pools since Gun Club is a community size park - the only one purchased under the 1963 Bond Issue. Some 3900 children live immediately adjacent to this park site and we have already installed parking, electrical conduit, sewerage, water supply, etc., as well as lighting (general) for the swimming pool. If we move rapidly, Stan Martin feels that one-half the cost of the swimming pool could be obtained under the Land and Water Conservation Act. As to Center Hill, located on Bankhead Highway, this was at one time a fairly well developed park which fell into disuse and now that the population has surged we feel that we must use a modest amount of our money renovating this facility. It is good level land in an area deficient of parks and we feel like moving very quickly on it. As to Benteen, we are under contract for phase one, which will cover only basic siting and improvements and when we finish this you can hardly tell that anything has been done - it will all be under ground. Therefore, we feel like moving very rapidly into phase two so that the citizens can have something to use. Thomasville Urban Renewal Park is unusual in that we have already gone through phase one and are starting phase two and yet have very little to show the public. It's another case of a lot of money being spent underground to handle drainage, etc. We feel however, that the modest additional expenditure of \$15,000 would virtually complete the park except for a swimming pool or recreation center. As to items 8,9,10, & 11, you have advised me of what you compute the total cost to be and the fact that the City has formerly committed itself to purchasing these lands within urban renewal projects.

The entire priority list, including the purchase of new park lands, is based on the assumption that the City will get 50% assistance from the Federal government either under the open-space program or the Land and Water Conservation Act.

We still have a considerable number of parks which we should move into on phase two such as Benteen, Cleveland, Collier, the funding of Field Road when it's purchased, Shady Valley, Waters, recreation buildings for Washington, Butler, University, Wilson Mill, Wesley, etc.

Mr. Leftwich has asked that in the next few days we have a called meeting of the Parks Committee to formally endorse this priority list and I assume that you will be reviewing the same

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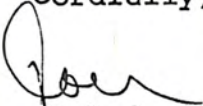
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with your committee.

We are deeply indebted to the City Finance Committee for making available these additional funds and assuring you of our appreciation
I am

Cordially,


Jack C. Delius
General Manager of
Parks and Recreation

JCD:lg

CC: Mr. George Berry, Comptroller's Office
All members of the Aldermanic Parks Committee
Hon. Ivan Allen, Jr.