

World Fair tarries at New York park site

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By the Associated Press

New York

Today it is Flushing Meadow-Corona Park, but there are still signs around to remind a visitor of its former grandness — the 1964-65 World's Fair.

A webwork of paved paths still leads to what was the central symbol of that fair, the towering, open-work globe called the Unisphere.

After ten years of neglect, however, the fountains have been vandalized, and the three-armed base of the giant globe is covered with graffiti.

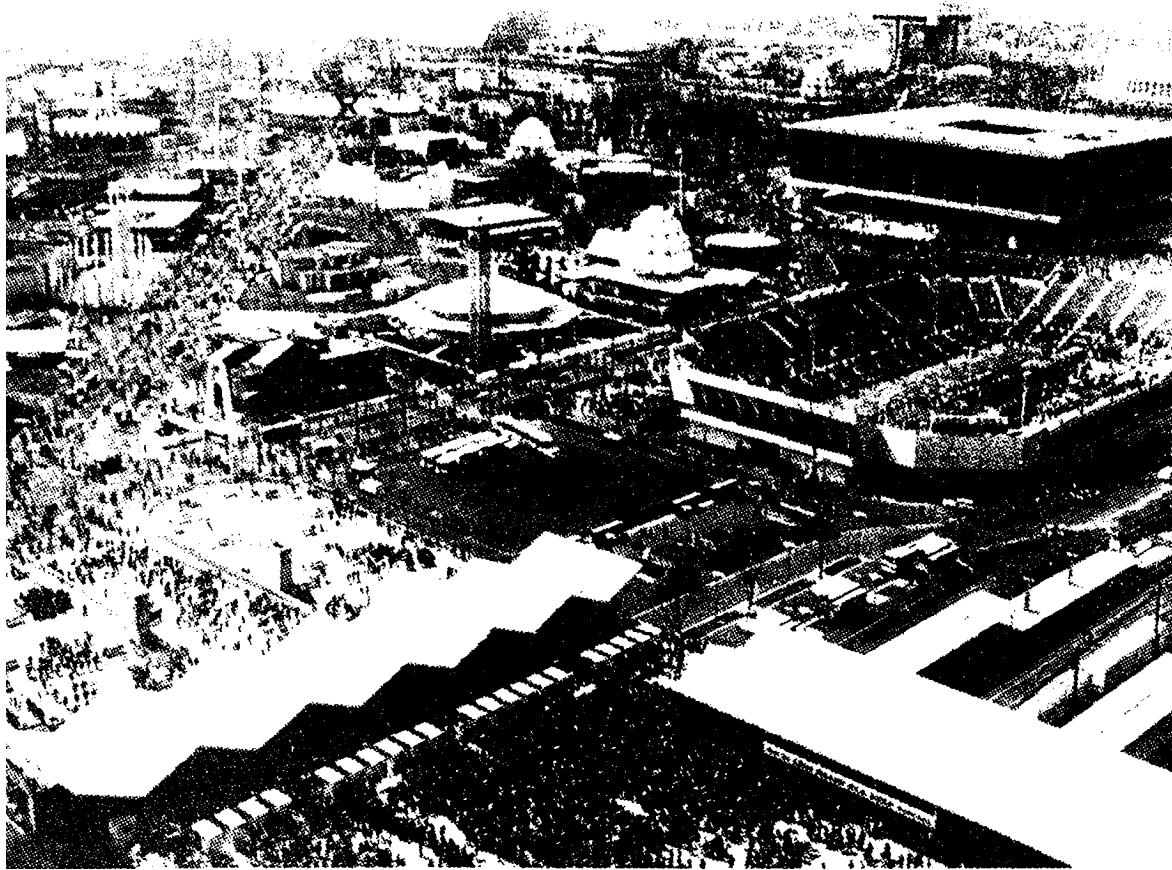
Very much in use are the former New York State Pavilion; the Hall of Science; the Singer Bowl, renamed for Louis Armstrong; and the marina. The geodesic dome is intact but awaits the money to make it a usable aviary for the Queens Zoo, which was laid out at the park five years ago.

Fixtures torn out

The neglected U.S. Pavilion gloomily awaits demolition. Declared excess by the government the year after the fair closed, the \$10.5 million building has stood unused because there were no takers for a costly conversion to anything else.

Its ceilings and fixtures have been torn out and the walls defaced by spray-painting vandals.

A demolition company bid \$119,000 in 1966 to bring the building down.



AP photos

Crowds filled New York's Flushing Meadow for 1964-65 World's Fair . . . Now the crowds are gone, but a few structures remain

Today, the estimate is \$800,000 to \$1 million, and the U.S. Commerce Department is seeking the money from Congress.

Portions in use

The demolishers had leveled almost all of the fair, the delight of more than 50 million visitors, within a year of the closing. Gone were the foundations; the pavilions of scores of states and nations; the 16-foot orange perched 100 feet above the Florida pavilion; the Vatican pavilion and Michelangelo's "Pieta"; the Belgian Village; and the monorail. The Spanish pavilion, shipped to St. Louis, is a cultural center there. The concrete prefab Mormon pavilion was moved to the community of Plainview to become a Mormon chapel.

Trees, bushes, and grass were planted, but the \$24 million which fair promoters promised the city for developing the park had shrunk to a mere \$1.5 million when a final accounting came in 1972.

Major portions of the 1,280-acre park await development, but what's in use now includes:

- Meadow Lake area and the marina, used by as many as 200,000 persons on weekends for strolling, lounging, cycling, and boating.
- An 18-hole, pitch-and-putt golf course.
- Fourteen baseball fields and five

fields for football or soccer plus horseshoe-pitching and bocci bowling fields.

The New York State pavilion now is a roller-skating rink. A Queens community group would like to see a wooden floor installed to save the deteriorating tile-mosaic floor from

being destroyed. The building also houses the Queens Playhouse, which needs a lobby and ticket office.

Busy attractions

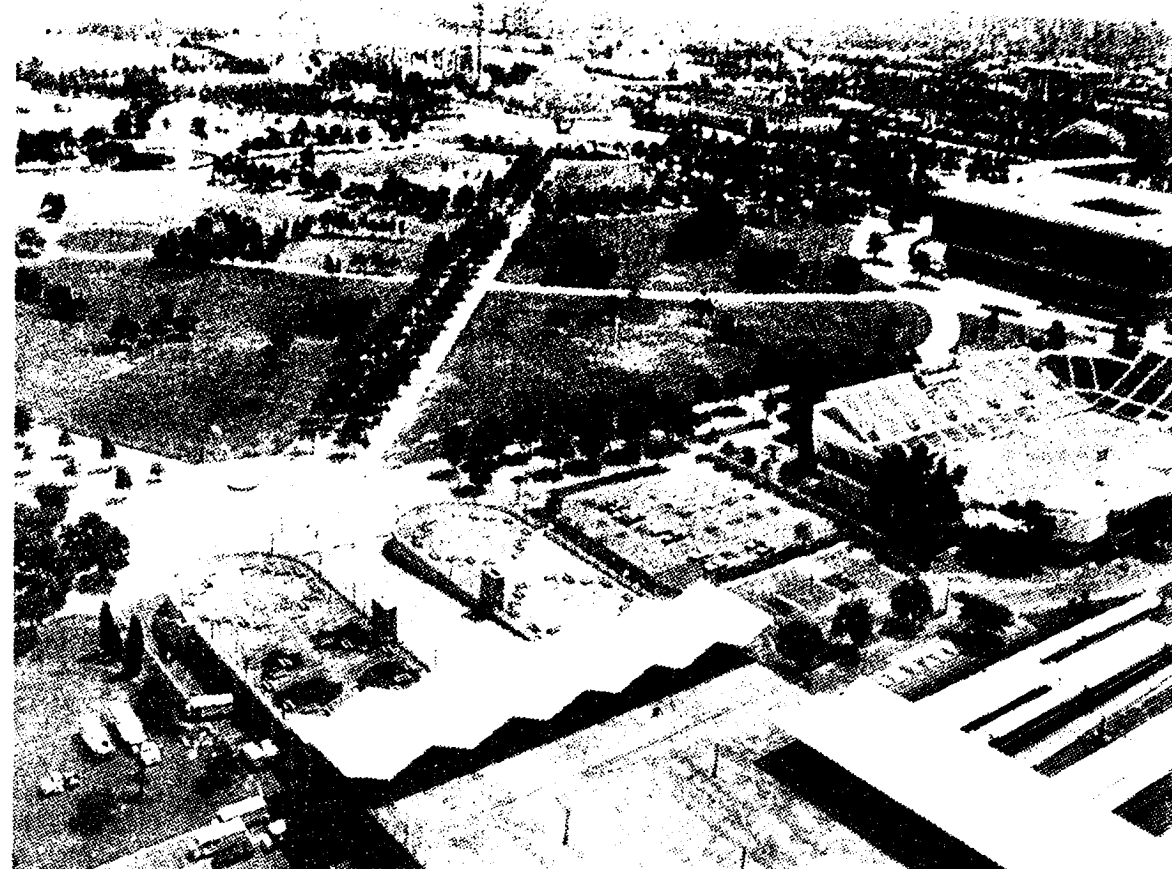
The zoo and the Hall of Science are the most continually busy attractions year-round, so much so that an ex-

pansion of the hall was begun in 1970. But after laying a foundation for a \$25-million addition, work stopped because the city diverted the money to renovate Yankee Stadium.

The Louis Armstrong Stadium, with 14,000 permanent seats and 3,000 portable field seats, books rock con-

certs and also has been used for boxing and circuses.

Two legacies of the memorable 1939 world's fair also remain in the area — the amphitheater swimming pool and the New York City pavilion, which houses an ice-skating rink and the Queens Museum.



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