

City Considering a Sports Park Over Most of World's Fair Site

*Modeled on Center in Tokyo,
It Would Be Adaptable for
Future World Olympics*

By WILL LISSNER

Park Commissioner Thomas P. F. Hoving said yesterday that the city was completing preliminary plans to turn nearly all of the old World's Fair site in Flushing Meadow, Queens, into a "great sports park."

"Hopefully," he said, "some day maybe we'll have a World Olympics there."

Facilities for skeet and trap shooting, for baseball, soccer, football and lacrosse under lights, for waterskiing, drag racing and for many other participation sports would be concentrated in Flushing Meadow Park under the plan.

Mr. Hoving mentioned the planning in an appearance on the WNBC-TV program "Direct Line" and discussed it in an interview afterward. He explained he could not say precisely, until the planning was finished, what would be included, how much it would cost, and where the money would come from.

"We're just about at the final stage of the preliminary planning, which will determine what will fit into the park," he said. "Then we have to see what can



The New York Times

Thomas P. F. Hoving

Continued on Page 38, Column 6

The New York Times

Published: August 22, 1966

Copyright © The New York Times

FAIR SITE WEIGHED AS A SPORTS PARK

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

be left to concessionaires to build and what has to be allocated funds provided for in the capital budget.

"At this stage I don't know what the park, as a whole, will cost, or what it will cost the city."

Mr. Hoving said that funds would be provided in the 1967-68 capital budget for the development of the park.

"The World's Fair had hoped to make a much greater profit and had developed very grandiose plans to plough the money into the development of the park," he said. "Well, as you know, the fair didn't make the profit, so the plans had to be revised."

Flushing Meadow already has a swimming stadium and an indoor ice skating rink. Ground was broken Saturday for an 18-acre cageless zoo, including a children's zoo and a great aviary.

The Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority provided \$1.9-million for the zoo, and the

dren gave \$120,000 for the children's zoo.

A science museum had been planned for the park under the Wagner administration, but its status under the Lindsay administration is not settled.

The city will acquire from the World's Fair Corporation several buildings, including the New York State Pavilion, the United States Pavilion and Singer Bowl. These will be worked into the sports park plan, Mr. Hoving said.

Flushing Meadow has 646 acres. Of these, nearly 600 acres will be available for the sports park, the Commissioner said.

Flushing Meadow has 646 acres. Of these, nearly 600 acres will be available for the sports park, the Commissioner said.

Mr. Hoving said the Park Department's planners were taking as a model a sports park near Tokyo where some of the 1964 Olympic games were held.

Most of the competitions were held in the National Stadium and the National Gymnasium there, but one of the 10 other sites was Asaka Mezu Park, where the shooting contests were staged.

New York's park, Mr. Hoving said, would be built for participation sports but arranged so that it could be adapted for the Olympics.

The New York Times

Published: August 22, 1966

Copyright © The New York Times