

Engineer Urges Expansion Of Overton Park Westward

Rudolph Jones, Shelby County Conservation Board consulting engineer, called yesterday for expanding Overton Park westward to McLean.

Speaking at an ecology rally at Overton Park, Mr. Jones said Memphis and Shelby County should set aside money to buy homes and land between the park and McLean.

"Those homes are rather old. As they become available, they could be acquired and their land converted to park area," he said in an interview after his address.

He estimated the cost of the proposed project at two million dollars, which could come from a portion of the money the city will acquire for that portion of Interstate 40 right-of-way which would cut through the park.

"Overton Park would extend from East Parkway to McLean," he said, "and could serve Memphis in the same way Central Park serves New York City." It would add about 10 city blocks to the park.

Mr. Jones also suggested that cars be banned from the expanded park. "They could be replaced with a shuttle-type vehicle which could transport persons who would not want to or be able to walk through the park."

At the rally, Mr. Jones called for the Memphis Park Commission to move its maintenance shop from Overton Park to a "location with a more suitable zoning status."

Also speaking at the rally,

sponsored by the Youth Council of Memphis City Beautiful, was Paul Beach, 17, lieutenant governor of Memphis area Key Clubs. He said Memphians have to do more for the environment than wait for the federal government to act.

"We can sit back and say, 'Government, clean up this country.' But if we do, it won't get done.

"There are 23 collection centers in Memphis right now for waste recycling. But less than one per cent of us have used them. We have to get involved. We can't expect pollution to be solved by government."

The city and several civic clubs provide receptacles at several locations for Memphians to deposit glass, cans and paper for recycling. Wayne Neibel, city environmental engineer, said last week the city had sold 6½ tons of clear glass for \$130 and nine tons of old newspaper for \$81 since Project Voluntary Recycle began Sept. 1. Still, the people must do better, Mr. Beach said.

Charles Nance, chief of the solid waste section of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department's Pollution Control Division, cited some of the department's efforts to protect the city and county water supply and atmosphere.

C.A.

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