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## "Skating Rink Possibility Studied By Park Officials"

Item Type	Article
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Publisher	Commercial Appeal
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Download date	2026-03-17 03:28:47
Link to Item	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10267/30089">http://hdl.handle.net/10267/30089</a>

① -p OPE 26-46 CP, Nov. 25 1976

# Skating Rink Possibility Studied By Park Officials

Memphis parks officials are studying the possibility of developing an outdoor skating rink as part of an overall renovation of the children's playground area at Overton Park.

In a separate project, parks officials also are considering development of a shooting range, for rifle, pistol and perhaps skeet shooting, at either the Shelby County Penal Farm or a park facility in the city.

Officials are hopeful that a rink could be developed for ice skating in the winter and roller skating in the warm months.

Harry McLeod, Memphis Park Commis-

sion superintendent of planning and research, termed the planning "very preliminary" but said the present spray pool at the park might be converted to a rink.

He said studies would be made to determine the costs and mechanical problems involved. A skating rink could be revenue producing, he said.

"I would consider it to be a class-type activity rather than just something that would be here today and gone tomorrow. It is going to have to be a permanent-type facility."

McLeod said parks officials have in the past delayed redevelopment of the playground area because of uncertainty over the Overton Park expressway segment.

Moving ahead with planning now does not mean that parks officials feel the expressway will be delayed indefinitely or canceled, he said.

"We don't think the playground with its deterioration can stand any more time. The kids' playground is long overdue for complete renovation and redesign.

"Of course, the expressway is an aspect of the development which we will have to take into consideration. We don't think the expressway would infringe upon the area, but it would be a consideration."

Many persons in the city have a special feeling about the Overton Park playground area, McLeod said.

"I think a lot of people in town can relate to being in that area."

Gerald McKinney, park commission superintendent of recreation, said the feasibility of placing a shooting range on penal farm property in a joint project with the Shelby County Conservation Board is being discussed.

McKinney said he plans to visit and study a shooting range in Dallas within the next two to three weeks. He said two commercial firms are willing to cooperate in the development of a range.

"We are just investigating the possibilities now but within the next month or two we ought to know something one way or another," he said.

In a separate parks matter yesterday, the Shelby County Conservation Board discussed possible park sites in the Brunswick area and referred several potential sites to the Memphis and Shelby County Planning Commission for study.

The board also received a report that attendance in the county's playground and recreation programs last summer totaled 117,060.