



Garden at St. Vital Park, 1971. When the Metro Parks and Protection division took over St. Vital Park, no significant improvements had been made to it since the early depression years. WPRD.

gan in 1964 and the pavilion was opened in August of 1965. In 1966, the park received a summer attraction of note when an olympic-sized outdoor swimming pool was opened. The same year, considerable work was done to upgrade roadways and sewer service and in 1967 additional lighting was installed on roadways and walks and new playgrounds were built in the park.

Metro Comes to the Rescue of St. Vital Park

St. Vital Park still had a long way to go before the potential outlined in George Champion's 1928 plan would be realized. No

significant work had been done to improve the park since 1934. However, it was getting harder to justify a 100 acre park just on the basis of the day-camping that had been its primary use since the late forties. Developers in St. Vital had coveted the park for residential use since the end of the war. It was becoming increasingly difficult to fend them off. Metro

park planners knew that the sixties would be a make or break decade for St. Vital Park.

Though not able to lavish as much attention on it as was given to the other parks, Metro did make a concerted effort to open up St. Vital park to more uses, to improve its amenities and to project long-term plans for its development. In 1963 a public washroom and park concession building, a new service building and a new park gate were all constructed. In addition, barbecues were installed along the river section, a feature which drew families to the park in summer. The summer of 1964 was designated the last year for day-camping in anticipation of the



The new concession building at St. Vital Park, c. 1970. Improvements made to the park during the Metro years assured its future as park land. WPRD.

area's future use as a public park. During that summer extensive brush clearing and clean-up took place and in 1965 work on the lake, which had been suspended 34 years before, was resumed. The 1966 flood was a set-back for St. Vital Park, damaging turf and roadways, but no buildings were harmed and in the summer a picnic shelter and additional washrooms were built. That winter a skating rink was opened on the lake and for the first time ever the park roads were kept cleared of snow throughout the winter. In 1968 a comprehensive plan was adopted for the park that included more parking lots, an additional picnic shelter and playground,

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