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SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1-6 P.M.

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MONIQUE ARCHAMBEAU enjoys walking the tires in the playground at Farmington's City Park. Four-year-old Monique is a resident of Farmington. (Evert photo)

Why Aren't There More Observerland Parks?

As the building boom continues and woods and farm give way to subdivision, cluster housing and condominium, it is imperative that government at all levels make provisions to insure that adequate parks and recreational lands will be available for ourselves and future generations.

An inventory of public recreational lands prepared by SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) in late 1968 revealed "an almost shocking low level of provisions of public parks and recreational lands by local units of government."

THE ANALYSIS SHOWED that "the vast majority of local governmental units today do not provide adequate recreational lands for their residents." The report showed that no local unit of government in the Observerland area attained the minimum standard of 10 acres of recreational land for each 1,000 people.

Livonia, which has the most extensive park holdings in the Observer area, measured 3.3 acres per thousand persons. The city of Farmington had 3.1 acres per thousand, while Farmington Township had 0.1 acre per thousand.

Southfield had 2.8 acres per thousand population; Plymouth, had 1.0 acre per thousand and Plymouth Township had 0.1 acre per thousand. Redford Township had 0.4 acre per thousand population.

There have been some acquisitions and development in the 3½ years since the survey was made, at least in Livonia and Southfield. But whether the corresponding population increase will result in a favor-

able change percentage is still a question. SEMCOG is currently in the process of updating its survey.

THE WIDELY-ACCLAIMED and extensive regional park system of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority has been used as an "out" for some counties and smaller units of government not to develop their own park facilities, according to the survey.

The report states that "the urgent need is for all levels of governmental jurisdiction to acquire and develop the needed additional park lands now."

A listing of local park facilities follows:

City of Farmington

CITY PARK--Picnic areas, lighted baseball fields, tennis courts (2), playground, nature trails, shuffleboard, restrooms.

DRAKE ROAD PARK-- Picnic area, lighted baseball fields, tennis courts (2), playground, restrooms.

Robert Deadman, City Manager.

Farmington Township

GREENING PARK--Five acres adjacent to Glen Oaks Golf Course is a wooded area with creek running through it. "A nice natural area but just a beginning," according to Herman Moehman, chairman of the

PATIO WEATHER

The "relaxing" weather is finally here --and we're prepared with the perfect patio furniture -- Now at a sale price.



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