

23-ACRE SPORTS FIELD PROJECT

Between Heatherdale Rd. and Purches St., Mitcham, Nunawading Council is converting 23 acres of "wasteland" into what will become one of the most attractive parks and sporting areas in the suburbs.

Ready next year

Situated in a natural "saucer", the land, according to Acting City Engineer Bill Sewart, was constantly ravaged by fire or inundated by flood.

"The people in that area will certainly be glad to see it being developed."

Heavy earth-moving equipment moved on to the site two weeks ago to start the mammoth task of shifting 25,000 cubic yards of soil.

It is expected that the site will be levelled and sown with grass by the autumn.

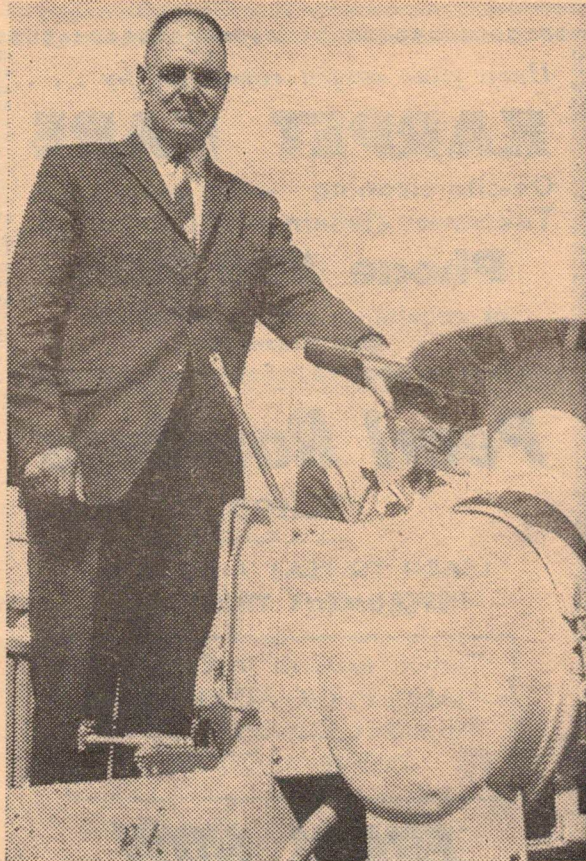
In the first stage of the development, 13 acres are being levelled and sown at a cost of \$50,000.

A firm decision as to what will be placed on the site has not been made by council but it is likely that, initially, two full-size playing fields will be prepared.

These would not be available for play until next summer.

In addition, on the 13 acres, provision has been made for the establishment of tennis and basketball courts.

East of the playing fields on another 10 acres it is likely that a bowling club will be established.



DEVELOPMENT

Nunawading's Mayor, Cr. W. G. Terry, said that the development of the tennis and basketball courts and the bowling club depended on the residents in the area.

"If clubs are formed by residents and finance arranged then development of those other amenities could be started."

The 23 acres will not be fenced but will be open parkland.

A watercourse which ran through the land has been diverted around the area. This will be fenced to prevent children getting into it.

Mr. Sewart said that before the earth-moving equipment could move on to the site, many dozens of trees had to be axed.

The trees have been sawn into 1 ft. lengths and will be distributed to pensioners and other eligible people before the winter. The trees produced about 500 tons of firewood.

A plan is to be prepared for re-planting of trees in the park.

• Cr. W. G. Terry inspects progress on the site from a giant piece of earth-moving equipment. The sports fields should be in use in Summer.