



LILY POND NO MORE--Manuel Lopez of Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation Department walks across cement bottom of Beverly Gardens Park lily pond which has been drained to make way for filling with dirt so that the site can be converted into a garden.

B.H. to Convert Lily Pond Into Flower Bed

BEVERLY HILLS — A relic of the 1920s—the deteriorated and abandoned lily pond in Beverly Gardens Park—will be put to other uses by the city because returning it to its former luster is too expensive.

Under a proposal approved by the City Council, the bottom slab of the large pond will be removed, but the walls will be retained. It will be filled in with soil and converted into a flower bed for

annual flowers which will be changed three times a year.

According to a staff report, the cost of the conversion will be \$42,000, with a yearly maintenance fee of \$6,000 for the planting and removal of flowers.

The staff had recommended complete removal of the pond and its replacement by sod, a job that would have cost \$49,000.

What would have amounted to a rebuilding of the pond and its stocking with fish and plants had a price tag of \$84,000. City Manager George Morgan told the council he could not recommend such an expenditure because of the cost and needs in other city parks.

The pond is on Santa Monica Blvd. between Canon and Beverly Drives. Deterioration over the years made it impossible to keep water at the proper level and it was permitted to grow dry several months ago. Fish and water lilies were removed to other ponds in the city.

Examination of the pond by various experts led to the conclusion that it had crumbled to a point beyond repair.

Family Camping

BEVERLY HILLS — A camping trip for families in the San Bernardino Mountains is being sponsored Friday through Sunday, Oct. 4-6, by the City Recreation Department. The cost for a family of four is \$30.

PRICE TAG QUESTIONED

B.H. Favors Fixing Up Faded Beverly Park

BEVERLY HILLS—The City Council has no doubt that fixing up the old and faded Beverly Gardens Park that spans the city along Santa Monica Blvd. is a good idea, but it isn't sure it should spend \$1 million on it.

That is the estimate put forward by the city's landscape consultant, Lee Sharfman, who is master planning the rehabilitation, slated to be carried out in segments.

The first one scheduled, from Whittier to Walden Drives, is estimated to cost \$140,000 and involves new irrigation, lighting, and the upgrading of lawns, trees, shrubs and planted areas, the pergola area, and the so-called "Pocahontas" fountain at Wilshire Blvd. and Santa Monica that has been a Beverly Hills landmark for decades.

(That fountain is the subject of a separate problem facing the council—whether, in the interest of saving energy, the water

should be turned on or off.)

On the park rehabilitation project, Councilman J. M. Stuchen said that the average per square foot cost — \$1.20 — astounds him. And Councilman Charles Aronberg commented, "We should try to save where we can. Let's look at the park and see if we want to spend all this money."

But Sharfman told the council that in his professional opinion, the projected costs, as well as the extent of the work, are not out of line: "This is a well-used park and what we propose isn't an unreasonable allocation."

The council will discuss the park program again Tuesday, Jan. 22, when it will have additional cost information prepared by the staff.