

northwest corner of Heritage Park to build their headquarters. The corps maintenance, insurance and other aspects of a possible agreement, a special the plan because the land being considered for the corps headquarters was the Lorraine Lark late petitions o



**DUCKS FIND A SANCTUARY** at the Hillcrest Slough, in Prospect Heights. The Prospect Heights Park District wants to purchase the slough and develop it into a recreation area. However, the Hillcrest Lake Homeowner's Association, which owns part of the site, does not want to sell its 13 acres.

## Residents Hit Park Land Purchase

Purchase of 13 acres of the north end of the Hillcrest Slough by the Prospect Heights Park District is being opposed by the Hillcrest Lake Homeowners Association, owner of the site.

The association has also set a price of \$130,000 on the land in case the park district, which has condemnation powers, pursues the purchase. The district has offered \$20,000 for the site.

Park Board Pres. Joseph Lesniak said the board has taken the association's decision "under advisement." Commissioners have discussed the matter in closed session.

In a letter written to Lesniak by Louis Marn, association president, Marn asks the park district "not to pursue the purchase of the property. Leave it in the hands of the present owners." Marn said the entire association met and decided unanimously that they wanted to keep the property.

One of the reasons the association opposes selling the site, according to the letter, is that homeowners feel the value of their homes would depreciate if the slough area became a public park. The park district wants to make a recreational area, including boating and fishing out of the slough.

The association also pointed out that if the park district buys the land, the slough would be a "double cost" to taxpayers in the park district. The taxpayers would have to pay for the property and at the same time keep it as a part of their park district tax base since the park district would not have to pay taxes on it, according to the association.

**THE LETTER STATES** that the association has spent "a great deal" of money on taxes, maintenance, land fill and keeping the area clean. Marn also points out that homeowners feel it "inconsistent" that the park board should be considering paying \$10,000 for one acre of the slough and only \$20,000 for 13 similar acres.

"However, we feel that this (\$130,000) will only cover a part of the cost and value this property has to us," the letter continues.

The park district has offered to purchase one acre of the north end of the slough from William Blauw, a Rolling Meadows resident. At a meeting earlier this month, Blauw indicated he would be willing to sell his property for \$10,000, instead of the \$3,000 offered. The park board is considering the matter.

"A group of citizens purchased this property to keep it from being developed and to be left in its natural state as a wild life center and park-like area," the letter states. "As a group, we had no restrictions from other people of the community using this property, with the exception of a few who abused it, such as motor bikes on the ice or boats with motors."

Currently the park district is pursuing condemnation of 19 acres on the south end of the slough. A condemnation suit has been filed, but no court date has been set.

**School Negotiating Teams Begin Contract Sparring**

## Park District vs. Development 01/25/73

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agneswojnarSKI  
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