

Hurst, William Nugent

□ PEOPLE

City asked to recognize former parks board chair

By Bill Hunt *Intel Aug 18/99*
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On the heels of the Communities in Bloom competition, city hall has been asked to recognize one of the city's biggest supporters of park lands.

William Nugent Hurst was born in Belleville in 1908 and served as chairman of the Recreation and Parks Board in the 1950s and 1960s. Hurst had a dream of creating park land from the mouth of the Moira River to Highway

401, on both east and west sides, says Stephen Geneja, who made a deputation before city council earlier this week. He wants council to name a trail, park, building or street after Hurst.

Among Hurst's endeavours was the transformation of West and later East Zwicks Island from city dump sites to parks. Hurst then worked with individuals and service clubs to construct East and West Riverside Parks before turning to the Corby Rose Garden, which

was completed with financial assistance from Corby Distillery, says Geneja.

"Of course Bill Hurst had help from many people and from the City of Belleville, but it was this man who realized his dream, just never looked back and was never hesitant to help others or ask others for help to achieve his goals in life," says Geneja.

"I think he left us quite a legacy and it's nice to have people in a community, like that." Hurst died Aug. 18, 1989.

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