

Rare public land must be preserved

Posted: Tuesday, June 10, 2003 12:00 am

Editor,

I have lived long enough and come to the startling realization that there is such a thing as a bad idea. The sale of a part of Jean Klock Park ranks near the top in that category.

In my mind this is the result of very short-sighted people. I can't believe that any government official would even entertain the idea of disposing of dedicated park property, even if that were legally possible and there appears to be some question about that.

In my opinion in today's hectic world we have too few public parks available that are close to population centers. Yes, there are thousands of acres of public lands in northern Michigan, but as a practical matter these areas are not available to Benton Harbor residents.

The last survey I saw indicated that Michigan is losing eight acres of land per hour to development. I don't feel we need to dip into park property to meet that quota.

Let's hope for the sake of future generations this proposal dies a natural death and without involving lawyers or people in Lansing.

Charles Knapp

Dowagiac