

## Klock Park neighbors should be willing to help

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Editor,

The arguments that Benton Harbor should not sell any part of Jean Klock Park because it was received with specific stipulations as to use, and that grants have been received based on the whole parcel, are good arguments.

Gifts of land received with use stipulations acknowledged and accepted, should be held as long as possible with the original intent honored. We could face Benton Harbor and argue that the park should be kept intact, holding up the language of the gift and the grants alone, but how many promises can really be kept for all time and eternity? As a resident of the greater Edgewater area, I must admit that I enjoy more benefit from Jean Klock Park than most Benton Harbor citizens. I can advertise that my home is a "five-minute walk to the beach." In all honesty, the quality of life for those of us living around Jean Klock is greatly enhanced and we pay nothing extra outside of our normal taxes for the benefits the park affords us. I have a special interest.

Currently, the park is a financial liability for Benton Harbor with virtually no benefits for its citizens, and the proceeds from selling a swath and subsequent yearly property taxes are seen as a means of relief. What are the alternatives for increasing revenue and how can I help?

This beautiful stretch of lakefront touching St. Joseph and Benton Harbor is unique. This is a case that begs for collaboration between our communities; and hopefully, with the right solution, Benton Harbor residents and St. Joseph residents will enjoy the beach together.

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