

Development at park won't stop at 3.8 acres

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Editor,

This morning I saw a doe and her fawn in the wetlands that are part of Jean Klock Park. The fawn stood on shaky legs and nuzzled its mother. The doe stood protectively still until I got too close, then she led her baby back into the woods.

In addition to the beach, Jean Klock Park is home to deer, herons, muskrats, ducks, turtles and many more animals and plants. As nature intended it, it is a fragile ecology. As God intended it, it is a gift for us to protect and enjoy without damaging the homes of those who need protection.

Like the national parks, Jean Klock Park is a beautiful natural place we need to preserve for our children. It is being threatened by developers who want to turn the park into homes for a few people able to afford lakefront property. If they were allowed to break the covenant stating that Jean Klock Park is a gift to the citizens and should be preserved forever and always, in a matter of years the entire park will be private homes probably with fences and gates. Please do not delude yourself in thinking that the developers will stop with 3.8 acres. If the covenant from J.N. Klock to the city of Benton Harbor, accepted by both in 1917, is broken this park will be consumed by concrete and asphalt.

As it is, Jean Klock Park is the jewel in the crown of the path I was walking on. The path connects the cities of Benton Harbor Arts District, to downtown St. Joseph, the Howard Family Trail, the Upton Arboretum, Silver Beach, Lions Park and more. What better way to connect the two cities than a great path for walking, running and biking in the fresh Lake Michigan air? Along the way you might see a doe and her fawn or meet a neighbor or make a new friend. Please do not waste this unique area on more unnecessary homes.

Kathy Zerler

St. Joseph