

Most callers favor purchase of Spicer property

In what has been an overwhelming community response, dozens of Farmington and Farmington Hills residents have tapped into this week's Oral Quarrel line to say what they think should be done with the Spicer property.

The present owner, Nicholas Spicer, has offered the city of Farmington Hills first call on purchasing it for use as a wilderness and recreation area. Following are many of the responses called in by residents:

In what has been an overwhelming community response, dozens of Farmington and Farmington Hills residents have tapped into this week's Oral Quarrel line to say what they think should be done with the Spicer property.

I feel with the economy the way it is now, that the town can ill afford to purchase more land. The land should be sold off and developed to bring more money into the town rather than costing the town money.

I would like to see the city buy the land. I would like to see it left in its natural state with just a picnic area involved. Farmington needs more parks.

The city had better buy this land. They passed up three other park areas and landsites they should have had years ago. I have fought for 27 years to put a park in the city of Farmington and Farmington Hills. It should be a cooperative program; outdoor education, nature trails and play areas. They have needed it for the past 20 years. It's about time some of those people on the council got off their . . .

I would not like to see the land developed at all. I would like to see it left in its natural state and I would like to see the city buy it. It might give them a good place to spend their \$1,105,000 that was excess in the 1981-1982 fiscal year.

For recreation. We don't want anymore building. Conserve all the woods in there.

I have been a taxpayer in this city for 14 years and I emphatically feel that we should have a park here. This is a wonderful opportunity.

I'm against the purchase of the property because we already have plenty of metropolitan area parks. We have woods in the community. This land would be more useful for development in either condos, high-rise, senior citizen housing or even multiple-single dwellings. We don't have enough tax base as it is.

I would like to see them purchase the area for a recreation center including an outdoor or indoor swimming pool where children can go for a nominal fee. It looks like they can afford it due to the surplus.

I think Farmington should buy it and make a nice big beautiful 18-hole golf course.

Absolutely not. It would require more police and more maintenance. Look at Hines Park, the high crime, hoodlums and drug addicts. That's the same thing you'd have here.

I do not want to see a recreation area in Farmington. It would draw

people from all over different areas. I would rather see it developed another way.

What are they waiting for? It's a fantastic opportunity. Buy it by all means.

I think the city should definitely purchase the property. It is such a beautiful area in the spring, summer and fall. I would hate to see it developed into a subdivision. Perhaps something like the Rouge River Parkway, without the road of course. More nature area trails than ballpark kind of development.

I would like to see the city purchase the property and use it as a recreational facility with skiing, hockey rinks, cross country skiing and anything at all in the way of recreation for the city.

Please, please, please, yes, ya. I would love to have that property in our cities' possession for a park. We could all enjoy something relatively close to home. In fact, right in our back yard. However, I'm concerned about what it will cost us, the taxpayer, in Farmington.

I feel strongly that the city should buy the Spicer land and develop it for a park much along the lines that have already been suggested for park development. Looking in the paper and seeing that we have this surplus in our budget that exceeds a million dollars I think that would be a fine place to use the money.

I feel there would be a lot of people going to the park and abusing the privileges. Stupid idea to begin with. No recreation. We've got a park right down the street and that's had enough. Drugs and all that stuff goes through there.

It's a beautiful piece of land, well worth the city purchasing it for future generations to enjoy. I happen to know used it. However, it is so beautiful it should be preserved for the people of Farmington. I think the city should buy it.

oral quarrel

I think Farmington should purchase that land. Number one it would give the kids a place to go and number two it would be a good place to know where the kids are. I think it would be a good place to keep the teenagers off the streets when they want to drink and that sort of thing. I think it would be a perfect idea. I think it should be developed for a recreation area. A place for football, games and outdoor sports. The outdoors in Farmington is beautiful. It should be purchased.

I totally oppose a public park on the Spicer property. We have enough problems with drugs and violence in our community as it is and I feel that any such park would only amplify these problems. I would rather see it go to a developer and have a nice subdivision put there instead.

I would like to see the city of Farmington Hills buy the property and turn it into a recreational facility as described in the paper last week.

I definitely favor purchasing the property. If we don't get it now we will never have an opportunity again. I want to have the park not only for today but for my children and my grandchildren.

I would like to see the city purchase the Spicer property. It could be a multi-purpose park. Much of it could be retained as a wilderness or nature study area then that would leave a good area that could be used for water sports and many other activities.

I am opposed to the city buying the Spicer farm. We have a city-owned golf course and a county-owned golf course. We are close to Proud Lake and Kensington recreation area. Another park is

not needed, plus it would mean higher taxes.

I would like to see the city purchase the Spicer property and keep most of it in its natural wilderness state. I would not like to see baseball diamonds or other loud, recreational uses made of the property. I think it is interesting that there is a million dollar surplus in the budget. It would also be interesting to see how much Farmington is expected to pay for the property.

I think the city of Farmington should purchase the property to use as a recreation area at any cost. Farmington desperately needs it. It should have a fitness trail like the one in Livonia, swimming pool, tennis courts and baseball diamond with the rest left pretty much as a nature park.

I hope very much that the city purchases the Spicer land and develops it as recreational area in a way that Nicholas Spicer wants it. I hope that much of it is kept in its natural wilderness state.

We must take advantage of this opportunity to have a beautiful wild life preserve and recreational area within our borders. Together with the gracious home that is our Community Center we will have a unique priceless treasure, impossible to duplicate, which will enhance our quality of life for generations. Hopefully, it will be developed according to Nicholas Spicer's wishes but let's acquire it first and then carefully plan its development.

Yes, I would like to see it purchased for nature trails, cross country skiing and wooden park structures for the children.

I would like to see the land remain the way it is in its natural state. If the city of Farmington needs to purchase it than I would like to see it developed with the objective of having the wild life live as they are and nature trails so people can see them in their natural state. Please don't let the developers buy that land.

I think the Spicer land should absolutely be purchased by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Mrs. Spicer wanted the land to be part of Farmington forever and I think that considering the excess funds on the front page of the Observer that we could use those funds in that way.

The city should purchase the Spicer property and leave it in its natural state like the Huron-Clinton parks. I think it's unsuitable for ball diamonds because it's such a beautiful piece of land.

Buy it. Why not make it partly a working farm, part Quakerstown Village with maybe a private school as well as parkland.

Buy the property and leave it in its natural state. I'll contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase.

I want to see the city buy the land and would like Farmington to do something similar to what Southfield has done. Farmington really needs an ice rink and nature center.

If the land is developed properly, I think it's a great idea.

I would like to see the city buy the land and build a swimming pool and bike path. I would like to see it done well for the kids in the future.

Buy the Spicer property and keep it in its natural state. Use it for the whole area.

Buy it. Use it for a park.

I would like it to become a part of the Farmington recreation area.

Yes, I definitely think they should buy the land. The Farmington Community Center is a beautiful building and I would hate to see anything happen to it. A recreation area, I think, is a great idea. I would like to see the land broken up and sold to developers. I like to keep Farmington beautiful.

Absolutely not for a park use. We have enough parks in the surrounding communities. Put this land to good use in the city of Farmington Hills. Use it to get a good tax base.

No. Not for recreation purposes.

Farmington Hills should definitely buy the land. We don't have any nice natural areas. We don't need any more baseball diamonds or tennis courts. Everyone in the city is within walking distance of one.

I think the city should buy the Spicer property. It would be passing up a good thing. That's the only natural area we have left here and I think it should be left as natural as possible.

Purchasing 210 acres takes a little more thought and planning than just toying with the idea. If the city can't give their employees more than a 3 percent pay increase, I don't think they can afford to purchase 210 acres of land.

I think it's a good idea. I think they should use the excess funds to purchase that land, don't you?

I think they should buy it and leave it as natural as possible. Nature trails, picnic areas but no baseball diamonds and things. We have enough of that in Farmington.

Yes, I would like to see it purchased by the city and put it to a recreation area because that's what Farmington Hills is all about.

I am against the city purchasing the land. Anything that's going to cost us

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