

# Park eyed for 10 Mile-Inkster area

By Neal Haldane  
staff writer

Southfield Park and Recreation officials have their eye on almost 30 acres of land adjoining a lake for possible development as a park on the city's west side.

The land is on Carpenter Lake, a dammed section of a Rouge River tributary south of 10 Mile near Inkster Road.

"It's a beautiful piece of property," said Bill Walenczak, deputy parks and recreation director. "It's nicely treed with a lot of different tree species. We would like to clean up the river, put some fish in it and allow our residents to fish. It's a valuable piece that could be used as a nature preserve."

The price tag for the 29.74 acres is \$326,500, but the parks and recreation department is proceeding with plans to

apply for state money to purchase the land.

"We've known about the property for a number of years," Walenczak said. "But I guess the reason we moved off dead center is because the owner contacted us and Proposal B passed in November."

THE APPROVAL OF Proposal B by Michigan voters required that Kammer Land Trust Fund money be used for buying land, developing public recreation facilities or administering the Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Previously, the state Legislature appropriated money from the fund for non-park uses. Money for the fund is earned through royalties, bonuses and rentals collected by the state from the drilling of gas and oil or mining of minerals on state-owned land.

The owner of the land, Susan Ryan,

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— Bill Walenczak  
Southfield Parks and Recreation

Walenczak said the staff is proceeding with the application process to receive consideration during the 1985 funding cycle.

"If everything gels, we could acquire this property at virtually no cost to the city," he said. "It's a nature preserve area that is water-related and all the criteria fit Kammer Fund guidelines. I feel we have a good chance of securing the funding if we proceed with the application."

THE KAMMER FUND would pay 75 percent of the cost and Ryan has indicated she would donate the remaining 25 percent as an in-kind contribution.

In addition to the 29.74 acres, the department also is interested in acquiring a second piece of property north of the Ryan land.

The 12-acre parcel has a 10 Mile access and includes a main house, guest

house and two barns.

That land could be used for an equestrian facility managed by an outside vendor, Walenczak said.

That property carries a \$287,000 price tag and if Kammer Funds are obtained, the city's share would be \$71,750.

Development of the 29.74 acres may include trails, fishing platform, children's playlot, picnic grounds and restroom facilities. The city would not own the entire lake and the only allowed activity on the water would be fishing, he said.

Before submitting the application — a June 1 deadline has been established — the parks and recreation department will hold a public hearing for residents and present the plan to the city council, Walenczak said.

That action could occur in April or May.

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