

Golf course most likely

Restrictions may stop Oakland park

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—So, what can be done with 121 acres of irregularly shaped open land that lies within a city and covers a giant drain? Not much, according to Eric Reickel, Director of Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department. At least that's the consensus many county and local officials have reached after Monday's study session to determine what, if anything, could be done to make a park out of the

Among the participating communities are Birmingham, Southfield, Troy and Beverly Hills.

very narrow, twisting property that runs along the Red Run Drain in Madison Heights

AMONG THE projects mentioned for site have been a swimming pool, a nature center, indoor tennis courts, a skating hill, an artificial ice rink or a children's zoo.

However, according to Reickel, most of these uses have been ruled out due to a host of physical and legal restrictions connected with the property.

It now appears that a small golf course is the project most likely to be implemented, Reickel said.

COUNTY AND local officials have agreed for some time that the possibilities of making a park out of the open space should be explored.

Because 14 southeast Oakland County communities contributed to the building of the Red Run Drain, it had been determined that all would have a say in the project with Madison

Heights having the greatest input. The prospect of creating the park is particularly welcome to officials in the southeastern communities because almost all the new parks in the county have been built in less developed areas to the north and west.

AMONG THE participating communities are Birmingham, Southfield, Troy and Beverly Hills.

At Monday's meeting, the consulting firm of Vilcoan-Leman & Associates, of Southfield, reported its findings after polling the 14 communities for suggestions on possible uses.

There was agreement that the project, besides filling a recreational need for the area, should create as little nuisance as possible to the nearby Madison Heights residents who would be most affected with what is built there.

A GOLF COURSE, which the consulting firm said represented one of the recreational needs most lacking in

the area, was considered by many officials as one of the most nuisance-free alternatives.

Reickel said the golf course, if approved, would cover most of the land and would very likely be operated by a private firm on a contract basis.

The area, however, is a long way from being off.

No final decisions have been made. Cost estimates haven't been attempted. An alternative project, including simply developing the property as open green area, could be selected.

Vilcoan-Leman will present its preliminary findings on the project to the county parks and recreation commission some time next month. A public hearing on the project is planned for March.

Among the many decisions that have to be worked out is whether the park will be a regional facility, paid with county funds, or a more local operation, funded by Madison Heights.

THESE DETAILS add to a host of complications that have confronted the project from the outset.

The most challenging aspect has been the irregular shape of the property. Not only narrow—it's 500 feet long at its widest point—the land carries numerous restrictions.



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Property Improvement and Other Installment Loans	11,745,062
Prepaid F.I.C.I. Insurance Premium	1,094,138
Properties Sold on Contract	2,183,012
Office Properties and Equipment less depreciation	5,063,965
Other Resources	8,387,490
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$255,576,986

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

Savings Accounts	\$229,563,636
Federal Home Loan Bank and Other Borrowings	25,443,350
Loans in Process	3,085,436
Accrued Income Taxes	342,454
Other Liabilities	7,334,672
Reserves	
Required Federal Insurance Reserve	\$8,411,350
Unallocated Surplus	1,393,878
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	\$225,576,986

CERTIFICATION

We, Ernest Fournier, Executive Vice President, and Ann Martin, Assistant Secretary of the Metropolitan Savings Association, do hereby solemnly swear that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the books and records of said association correctly reflect the true financial condition thereof, the statements, schedules and data contained herein are true and correct, the signatures appearing on all notes, mortgages and other instruments in connection therewith are genuine and there are no undisclosed assets or liabilities.

Broomfield proposes mid-decade census

The next five years could mean the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in state and federal aid to local governments in Oakland County, Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-15) has warned.

Because the federal population census is conducted only every 10 years, figures used to compute such aid become outdated, Broomfield explained.

"The result is that fast-growing areas like Oakland County are cheated out of their rightful share of the aid," said Broomfield. "The Oakland County area has experienced unusually rapid growth since the 1970 census, with some communities growing by nearly 50 per cent."

THE LOGICAL solution, Broomfield argued, would be a mid-decade census. Broomfield has been attempting to win support for such a census for many years in Congress. Hearings were held on the proposal in 1973, but no action resulted.

Broomfield said he plans to reintroduce his proposal in the new Congress.

"One argument against implementing a mid-decade census during the 93rd Congress was that there was not enough time to plan for such a head count before 1975. But that argument can't be used in the 94th Congress," he said.

The first mid-decade census, if approved, would be held in 1985, giving Congress plenty of time to prepare.

"HOPEFULLY, CONGRESS will prevent Oakland County and other fast-growing areas from being short-changed in the 1980's by passing this badly needed legislation," Broomfield said.

"It is little solace to local officials that the population of their communities will be readjusted at the end of the decade. After all, they will not be compensated for funds they have lost because of population discrepancies."

Broomfield represents several fast-growing areas, including Avon Township, West Bloomfield Township and most of northern and western Oakland County. His 19th district also covers Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield Township and a small part of Southfield.

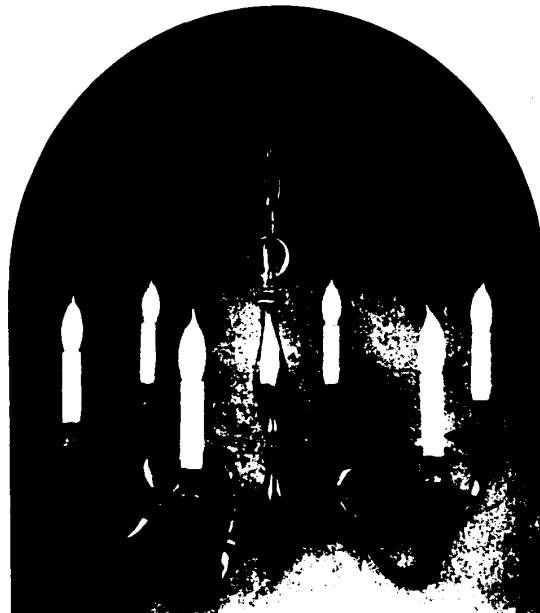
The seat has been held by Broomfield since 1956.

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