

From: Kaplan Harvey [<mailto:hrkaplan@umich.edu>]

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 10:07 AM

To: Planning

Subject: Proposal : South Geddes Pond Art Park (Planning Commission Package for Wednesday, January 21, 2015 Meeting)

Dear Commission,

Attached is a proposal outlining a plan for the South Geddes Pond Art Park that will serve to preserve all of the South Pond Wetlands Drainage Basin. This concept was initiated with the expert guidance of Dr James A. Chaffers, Architect, D. Arch., FAIA, NCARB, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, Former Chair, Ph.D. Program in Architecture, Taubman College, University of Michigan and Ms Shirley White-Black, MFA, Ceramics, University of Michigan. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Nancy and Harvey Kaplan.

Myra Larson, Ph.D.
Emerita Professor of Art
Stamps School of Art and Design
University of Michigan

SOUTH GEDDES POND ART PARK

VISION: This proposal outlines a unique concept for the City of Ann Arbor's Park System. Specifically, it proposes the creation of a "City Art Park," with a 48.49-acre land purchase, north of Arborland, providing a sustainable, eco-protective system, free for all ages to enjoy. It will create an exceptional attraction for residents and visitors of all ages.

MISSION: Protect and preserve one of Ann Arbor's last remaining woodlands, endangered South Pond and Huron River. The Art Park would provide Ann Arbor and the larger community a pleasurable educational opportunity to interact with nature and art.

GREENBELT MILLAGE: The land is assessed at \$3,693,393 million dollars. The current balance in the Greenbelt Millage Park Acquisition Fund is 4.7 million, with the millage being in effect for another 20 years. Giving all of Ann Arbor's citizens the right to experience the unique beauty of this area while preserving a wildlife sanctuary and the natural retention pond that protects the Huron River, makes for a one-time, sound environmental investment opportunity. **It is affordable re: Greenbelt Millage!**

WOODS • WATER • ART: Potentially developed as the South Geddes Pond Art Park, such a purchase would unite 48.49 acres of wooded property, 51.1 acres of South Pond surface water and the river, creating a unique public asset.

21ST CENTURY DYNAMIC ENTRANCE TO THE CITY: Arguably the City's most beautiful and precious asset, the Huron River provides Ann Arbor residents with 80% of our water and numerous recreational activities. However, the visibility of the river is limited unless you are 'on it. With an additional entrance and parking adjacent to Arborland, the proposed 'South Geddes Pond Art Park' would increase the visibility of the Huron River and make clear the City's commitment to sustainability. Heightening the river's presence would also provide a more visually welcoming entrance experience for arrivals to Ann Arbor via US 23 and Huron River Drive. **The Art Park would have a positive economic impact.**

DESIGN DETAILS AND NATURAL FEATURES: The 48.49 acres of land being proposed for purchase is one of the last remaining beautiful parcels of wooded land encompassing the river within Ann Arbor. The City's development of this land as home for an interactive Arts/Park concept would create a unique 'parkscape' ,wedding nature's beauty with juried works of art. The 'South Geddes Pond Art Park' would provide park users with a new experience with public art. To this end, local, national and international artists could be invited to create temporary works for limited time periods, thus illustrating how fragile, one-of-a-kind natural environments can be changed without harm. Moreover, the grounds of NAP Headquarters, recently located on South Pond, could become an outdoor classroom with the placement of benches and docks for citizens to use while learning about the critically important work of NAP. There are many exciting possibilities for visitors to connect with the pond and river.