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By Unknown

## **\$1.3 million committed to Asylum Lake**

A \$1.3 million endowment fund has been created to preserve and maintain the 274-acre Asylum Lake recreational area north of Parkview Avenue and east of Drake Road.

Creation of the endowment was to have been announced in ceremonies scheduled for this afternoon with officials from the city of Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo Foundation and Western Michigan University, which owns the property.

It is being established with \$1.3 million from the Kalamazoo Foundation's \$3.3 million grant to WMU for its new College of Engineering and Business Technology and Research Park.

WMU broke ground for the park in November.

Foundation spokeswoman Gloria Royal said the endowment fund will be used for development, operation and maintenance of the preserve, which includes Asylum Lake, wetlands, prairie and woods and is home to a variety of wildlife.

Planned uses include walking, running, bird watching and cross-country skiing. Public access to the preserve is off Drake north of Parkview.

Expected to attend today's announcement were Pat DiGiovanni, Kalamazoo city manager; Jack Hopkins, Kalamazoo Foundation president and chief executive officer; and Elson Floyd, WMU president.

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