

July 24, 1974
Kalamazoo Gazette
By Unknown

Sen. Welborn Asylum Lake Park Area

A legislative proposal is being prepared to make local park land out of state-owned Asylum Lake, State Sen. John (Jack) A. Welborn said Tuesday.

The Cooper Township Republican told Kalamazoo County commissioners Tuesday night he is preparing the proposal to allow local governmental use of the lake area.

Some 160 acres of water and woodlands are on the property owned by the Michigan Department of Mental Health.

The department administers the land, which is east and west of 12th Street, also called Colony Farm Road.

County commissioners delayed action Tuesday on a resolution that would have gone to state authorities and ask that the land be de-



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clared surplus and transfer it to the county "for the purpose of having it remain in perpetuity as public open space for park and recreational use."

The resolution was designed to be a joint effort with the Kalamazoo City Commission. County action was delayed Tuesday until further consultation with city officials.

City authorities have indicated interest in some of the area property for use in a "New Town" residential development project.

Welborn told commissioners he would like advice on preparing legislation that would allow the local units to use the land.

Specifically, he said, the request could either have the state lease the land "at a dollar a year" to the local governments or the state give a deed to the land, with the property reverting back to the state if its usage changed.

County officials indicated they would spell out the preferred route by the next county board meeting.

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