



This memorandum to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees was unanimously approved by The Board of Directors of the Asylum Lake Preservation Association.

It reflects our concerns about the development of the Colony Farm Orchard and the impact of the development on the Asylum Lake Preserve.

There are some trees which are over 100 years old. Careful inventory of the valuable trees should be a first step in planning which areas would be designated for tenants. Development should be concentrated in as few areas as possible, and in the areas which are already disturbed.

Wetland cover should be improved to reduce erosion and degradation of the water quality. Care should be used in storm-water management construction and actively monitored.

While the archaeological features might be difficult to unearth, it should be valuable to investigate whether the granite foundation of the water tank, which is still evident, could be made into a central gathering area commemorating the former use of the land as part of the State Hospital. This would honor the memory and the work of the Welborn brothers in establishing significant park land for the community.

The CFO now acts as a buffer from US 131. It is important that the property be developed so that maximum protection is maintained for the Asylum Lake Preserve.

The connectivity with the Preserve should be taken into consideration, so that there are trees at the eastern edge of the property to provide connection for the animals with the Preserve area.

It would be best if development takes place more toward the west side of the parcel so that the east side could continue to be a buffer and a connection for the Preserve.

It is vitally important to the Asylum Lake Preservation Association that the development of the Colony Farm Orchard property be conducted with continuing input from those in the community who understand and value the ecology of this undeveloped space. We hope that, as WMU develops this land, a strong partnership with the community will be developed and maintained throughout any process.

The Asylum Lake Preservation Association is ready to assist in any way possible in such a collaborative effort. Specifically, given the unfortunate experiences of the past, we would like to be included in the process of developing the plans, not just having a chance to review them once they have been developed. Being included in the process from the beginning, ALPA's knowledge and experience, as well as that of other community members, would greatly enrich the resulting plans and make them more widely accepted in the community.