

June 19, 2003

Mr. Paul Garriepy  
Director of Properties  
Catholic Diocese of Lansing  
300 West Ottawa Street  
Lansing, MI 48933-1577

*Dear Mr. Garriepy,*

I am writing in support of the Dicken Woods organization, which is dedicated to preserving the wooded land adjacent to Dicken School. The commitment of this group of people has been astonishing and reflects the caring nature of the entire neighborhood.

As Principal of Dicken Elementary School, I fully support that this piece of land be preserved as a wooded area. In years past, the school community has had discussions about the benefits our students would glean from utilizing the land to enhance their learning. Until now the efforts to formalize an opportunity for this to happen just hasn't come to fruition. It is exciting to think that perhaps the land could become an outdoor education site. The Ann Arbor Public Schools has a rich science curriculum, which includes units of study about plants, environments and animals. Having the Dicken Woods available to them, teachers and students could make repeated visits to observe the seasonal changes in the land and how the environments grow. This is what we consider the hands-on experience all students need to really learn. The City of Ann Arbor has successful examples of such sites next to schools, which have become true landmarks for generations of children. I am sure the Dicken Woods would become an integral part of the city.

I would be happy to speak with you at any time regarding how the Dicken Woods would benefit our community. This opportunity for the community to come together around such a productive and beneficial project has been a positive example for the children of Dicken to witness, as they learn to be responsible and active citizens. I thank you for your support and wish you the best in the future.

Sincerely



Kathy Scarnecchia

Principal

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