



April 9, 2019

Dear Kalamazoo Planning Commission Members;

The Board of the Oakland Drive – Winchell Neighborhood Association (ODWNA) **supports** the approval of the Natural Features Protection (NFP) Zoning Overlay Ordinance as presented to the Planning Commission.

We believe that the Ordinance:

- 1) Represents a reasonable balance between neighborhood concerns, environmental preservation and sustainable development.
- 2) Helps to protect our natural resources, yet allows for responsible development to allow our city to grow.
- 3) Sets a foundation for the city to move forward with the sustainable stewardship, management, and protection of our key natural features.

We understand that some individuals, as well as interest groups, are not in favor of the current iteration of this Ordinance. However, the ODWNA board believes that it is a good start in helping to protect our city's endangered natural resources, and we look at this Ordinance as a solid step forward to achieving that goal. We also recognize that this Ordinance is designed to apply to lands throughout the city as well as other areas in our neighborhood; not just Asylum Lake Preserve but Woods Lake, Arcadia Creek, Kleinstuck Preserve, Woods Lake Park, Kensington Park, and Oakwood Memorial Beach, as well as undeveloped strips of land between residential and commercial development along Stadium Drive.

We look forward to participating in the NFP Map Review process and educational outreach program, currently scheduled to begin this June, as another opportunity to work with the city on providing neighborhood feedback for the consideration of other lands to be protected by the NFP Overlay Ordinance.

We would also like to commend city staff for the process they used in writing this Ordinance. This included the creation of an ad hoc technical committee to provide expert advice on natural features, as well as being inclusive, open, and responsive to the feedback of individual citizens, neighborhood associations, environmental organizations, and development groups.

Respectfully,

Board of the Oakland Drive – Winchell Neighborhood Association

Peter Kushner, President