

PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 7, 2004

Contact: Jose Garcia, HCMA Macomb County Commissioner

Metroparks: Improving the Quality of Life in Southeast Michigan

Macomb County - Macomb County's Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority's

(HCMA) Commissioner group supports the development of a Metropark within the City of Detroit as a key component of revitalizing the city and increasing the quality of life in Southeast Michigan.

Studies have shown that parks in metropolitan areas increase surrounding property values by providing access to natural areas and recreation and by creating a stronger sense of community. Parks are a magnet for new and diverse economic opportunities including tourism and small business development, which increases employment options for the local community.

The HCMA Macomb County Commissioner group believes that revitalizing Detroit helps mitigate the negative effects of urban sprawl on our county. Urban sprawl continues to increase pressure on the county's remaining open space and aging infrastructure.

Improving the quality of life for Macomb County residents is a top priority for the commissioners. A stronger Detroit positively benefits Macomb County and all of Southeastern Michigan's communities.

Macomb County Commissioner Group: Sebastian Anapolsky, Kristin Brooks, Yavuz Degirmencioglu, and Jose Garcia.