

LAND

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the property as a priority for public acquisition. Both the park plan and the Deardorff developing proposals for North Main Street call for uninterrupted bike paths and walkways along the river.

Property owner Harry Hawkins has offered to lease the land to the city for \$50,000 a year, but has so far declined to sell. The parcel was assessed at \$58,200 (by law, assessments are supposed to reflect half the "market value" of the property) last year, according to Ann Arbor Planning Department Director Martin Overhiser.

The city last week ordered an appraisal on the land, Jernigan said.

The trust fund program is administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and provides grants of up to 75 percent of the cost of land to be used for public open space or recreation. Money to support the trust fund comes from royalties the state receives from private companies that take out oil and gas leases on state land.

Applications for trust fund grants are due April 1, and the DNR does an initial screening by June, said Ron Olson, superintendent of the Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation. The final decision on grants usually comes in the fall, and the money is made available the following spring, Olson said.

Riverfront land parcel eyed by city

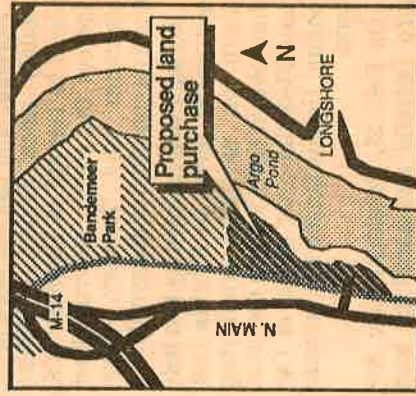
By JANET COHEN
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Ann Arbor officials may seek a state grant to help buy a parcel of land along the Huron River.

Mayor Jerry Jernigan said this week he will cosponsor a resolution at City Council Monday to approve the application for funds under the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund program. First Ward council members Larry Hunter and Ann Marie Coleman, whose ward includes the North Main Street corridor along the Huron River, are the other cosponsors.

The 8.5-acre riverfront parcel appears less than exciting in its current condition. Squeezed between the Conrail tracks and the river, the land houses a number of commercial tenants including Tri-angle Towing, an automobile towing company that piles junk cars right up to the river's edge. It also accommodates Marco-EDI, an engine testing firm, and the University of Michigan Rowing Club.

Citizens and planners consider the parcel to be a priority for public ownership because of its location adjacent to Argo Pond and di-



NEWS MAP

rectly south of the city's Bandemer Park.

The parcel would be well suited for a river sports center, according to Howard Deardorff, a consultant who has been studying possible improvements for the North Main Street/Huron River area. Under several of his proposals, the center would include a canoe livery, restaurant/concession, boat houses and meeting rooms, as well as parking for 150-200 cars.

The city's draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan also lists

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